ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

PDI's man in Hollywood spends whole day with 'desperadas' of Wisteria Lane

■ WORLD / A10

Death toll in Iraq stampede climbs to about 1,000

■ NEWS / A21

FVR: GMA has won first round but it isn't over yet

■ NEWS / A2

Goodbye 'jueteng,' welcome 'Small Town Lottery'

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Airline operators want a 'silent' Naia Terminal 1

By Nikko Dizon

CHRISTMAS songs will no longer be played at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) during the "ber" months should a group of airport operators

AIRLINE/ A20

10 NGOs join hands to help Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu

By Gerry Lirio

FOR THE first time, 10 of the country's biggest nongovernment organizations have come together to pool their time, talent and resources to improve the lives of the residents of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, three provinces severely devastated by the Min-

10 NGOs/ A20

High court upholds VAT

But TRO stays until final ruling

By Armand Nocum and Michelle V. Remo

THE SUPREME Court ruled yesterday that the expanded value-added tax law, the centerpiece of the government's fiscal reform program, was constitutional "in its entirety."

But the government cannot yet implement the VAT law, which will further raise the prices of goods and services at a time of surging fuel prices.

"The TRO (temporary restraining order) issued by the court on July 1 is lifted upon finality," Supreme Court public information chief Ishmael Khan Jr. told reporters yesterday.

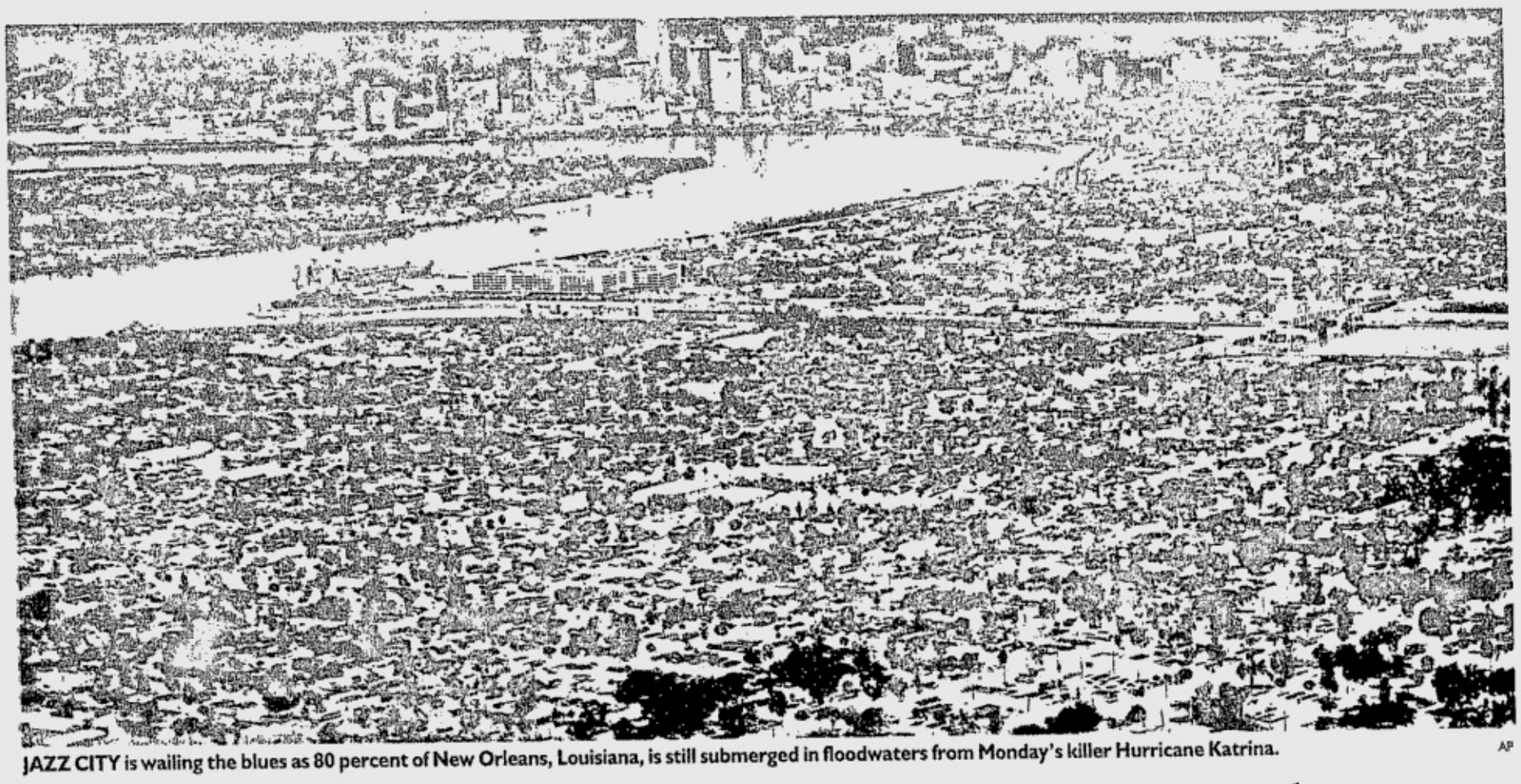
Khan said the freeze order would not be lifted until the court had ruled on any appeal against the ruling. Opponents of the law have 15 days to lodge an appeal.

Acting on five petitions, the high court issued a freeze order on the VAT law hours after its implementation two months ago.

The petitioners said the law was unconstitutional because it would allow the President the discretion to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent starting January next year. They said the power to tax belonged to Congress.

Khan said the court upheld all parts of the expanded tax, which

HIGH COURT/ A22



JAZZ CITY is wailing the blues as 80 percent of New Orleans, Louisiana, is still submerged in floodwaters from Monday's killer Hurricane Katrina. AP

Bush: One of worst natural disasters in US history

SURVIVOR is lifted to safety by a Coast Guard helicopter the day after the howler hit New Orleans. AFP

AT A GLANCE

Louisiana

- Deaths: The mayor said the hurricane probably killed thousands of people in New Orleans—an estimate that, if accurate, would make the storm the nation's deadliest natural disaster since at least the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Relief crews put aside the counting of bodies to concentrate on rescuing the living, many trapped on rooftops and in attics.
- An estimated 80 percent of New Orleans is under water, up to 6 meters deep in places. Water is still rising as engineers struggle to plug two breached levees along Lake Pontchartrain with giant sandbags.
- Authorities have drawn up plans to clear out the tens of thousands of people left in the Big Easy and all but abandoned the flooded-out city. Many of the evacuees—including thousands now staying in the Superdome—will be moved to the Astrodome in Houston, 563 km away.
- Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu said 3,000 people have been rescued by boat and air.

AT A GLANCE/ A22

NEW ORLEANS—With thousands feared drowned in what could be America's deadliest natural disaster in a century, New Orleans' leaders all but surrendered the streets to floodwaters and began turning out the lights on the ruined city—perhaps for months.

Looting spiraled so out of control on Wednesday that Mayor Ray Nagin ordered the entire police force to abandon search-and-rescue efforts and focus on the brazen packs of thieves who have turned increasingly hostile.

Gunmen in the nearby city of Gretna held up a supply truck carrying food, water, medical supplies and pharmaceuticals, prompting officials to ask police and the US Coast Guard to help evacuate a 203-bed hospital.

"We have to close it down because we can no longer ensure the safety of our patients or our staff in that hospital," said Steven Campanini, a spokesperson for Tenet Healthcare Corp.

He said there were about 350 employees and between 125 and 150 patients inside the hospital, which is not flooded and is functioning.

Earlier, Nagin called for an all-out evacuation of the city's remaining residents. Asked how many people had died, he said: "Minimum, hundreds. Most likely, thousands."

With most of the city under water, Army engineers struggled to plug New Orleans' breached levees with giant sandbags and concrete barriers, and authorities drew up plans to clear out the tens of thousands of remaining people and practically abandon the below-sea-level city.

Nagin said there would be a "total evacuation of the city. We have to. The city will not be functional for two or three months." And he said people would not be allowed back into their homes for at least a month or two.

If the mayor's death toll estimate holds true, it would make Katrina the worst natural disaster in the United States since at least the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, which had been blamed for anywhere from about 500 to 6,000 deaths. Katrina would also be the nation's deadliest hurricane since 1900, when a storm in Galveston, Texas, killed between 6,000 and 12,000 people.

Those who took shelter from the storm in New Orleans' Superdome

BUSH/ A22

Bishop Cruz: President a puzzlement

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz has warned the next 12 months—when President Macapagal-Arroyo is guaranteed immunity from impeachment—would be tumultuous because suspicions that she rigged the 2004 election results would remain.

"I am perplexed at the contradiction," Cruz said. "How come she said she welcomed an impeachment but her allies did precisely the opposite? Doesn't she have any sway on her own party? That would be dangerous."

The archbishop, one of Ms Arroyo's few vocal critics among the clergy, told the INQUIRER that, "Definitely, her governance will not be easy. The people's trust in her will be further eroded. The

BISHOP/ A21

Impeachment: Still a number of what ifs

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ANALYSIS

THREE things happened in quick succession on Wednesday at the House justice committee hearing.

First, the committee voted that lawyer Oliver Lozano's complaint barred a subsequent complaint by lawyer Jose Lopez and the amended complaint filed by the opposition.

Second, the committee voted to uphold the sufficiency in form of the Lozano complaint.

Finally, the committee decided that the Lozano complaint was not sufficient in substance after all.

What happens after this?

The simple answer may be found in Section 3 of Article XI of the Constitution:

". . . The committee, after hearing, and by a majority vote of all its members, shall submit its report to the House . . . together with the corresponding resolution. The resolution shall be calendared for consideration by the House within 10 session days from receipt thereof.

"A vote of at least one-third of all the members of the House shall be necessary either to affirm a favorable resolution with the Articles of Impeachment of the committee, or override its contrary resolution. The vote of each member shall be recorded."

But the question is really not that simple because there are a number of "what ifs" which can complicate matters.

To begin with, it is clear that the three votes taken by the committee on Wednesday did not end the impeachment process. The committee is commanded to submit for the consideration of the

IMPEACHMENT/ A8

Gloria saw it all on TV, says Palace

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo had been glued to the boob tube this week, monitoring the impeachment proceedings from her Malacañang office, Palace officials said.

The President's preoccupation with developments in the House committee on justice had prompted a number of last-minute cancellations of her activities outside the Palace.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President watched the cable TV coverage of the opposition walkout on Tuesday and the thrashing on Wednesday of all three impeachment complaints against her.

"We can't fault her for taking

GLORIA/ A21

Battle rages for 79 signatures toward final stand

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

PROIMPEACHMENT lawmakers yesterday said the "tug of war" over the 79 signatures for presentation to the House in plenary session on Monday remained fierce, with the number increasing and decreasing "by the hour."

But House Minority Leader Francis Escudero expressed optimism that the "final conflict" would end with the Senate sitting as an impeachment court to try President Macapagal-Arroyo. "We will make our last stand at the plenary," he declared.

At press time yesterday, the proimpeachment team said nine more lawmakers would be added to the 73 who had endorsed the amended impeachment complaint.

The nine were identified as Representatives Antonio Roman (Liberal Party, Bataan), Jesus Crispin Remulla (Partido Magdalo, Cavite), Romualdo Vicencio (Lakas, Samar), Laurence Wacnang (LP, Kalinga), Agapito "Butz" Aquino (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Makati), Teodoro Locsin (PDP-Laban, Makati), Danton Bueser, (LP, Laguna), Constantino Jaraula (Lakas, Cagayan de Oro) and Emilio Macias (Nationalist People's Coalition, Negros Oriental).

Except for Macias, who is not a member of the House committee on justice, the nine lawmakers had voted against, or abstained from voting on, the majority decision junking all three impeachment complaints on Wednesday.

But Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Rodolfo Agbayani, a member of the LDP faction led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, said he had withdrawn his signature from the amended complaint because the justice committee had not given "due course" to the complaint.

BATTLE/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have occasional rains. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the Western sections. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/09/02/05 SOURCE PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Goodbye 'jueteng', hello STL

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE "SMALL Town Lottery" or STL has distinct similarities to "jueteng," but it is probably the "best legal substitute" for the illegal numbers game, the government's anti-jueteng czar has told the INQUIRER.

The revival of STL, a "bright idea of the [Cory] Aquino administration to once and for all eradicate jueteng," is one of three major recommendations Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn will make to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Hagedorn said he would definitely push for the operation of the "same [STL] minus the game's imperfections." He will also ask the President to "allow local government units to operate STL, under contract and supervision of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, to ensure the government's share of revenues would be plowed back for social services."

"With all the lessons learned during its previous run, there's a need to perfect the game this time," Hagedorn said.

Launched in 1987 by the PCSO, STL was used as a front by jueteng operators and corrupt government and law enforcement officials.

"The purpose was to compete with jueteng operations, offering better incentives to runners and collectors and, at the same time, allocating certain percentages to local government units, the Philippine National Police and other beneficiaries of jueteng payola," Hagedorn said.

STL, which ran until September 1990, was "almost 100 percent jueteng in legalized form."

According to Hagedorn, STL failed for the following reasons:

- It did not get the support of local officials, the police and military "simply because they did not benefit from it as they did from jueteng."
- Jueteng operators, their financiers and workers were never apprehended. Left without livelihoods since they were not employed in STL, they turned to illegal activities, including "guerrilla" jueteng.
- STL only succeeded in making itself a front for jueteng operators. The failure, as usual, was in the enforcement of the Anti-Illegal Gambling Law.

A House inquiry in the early '90s showed that due to lax STL monitoring, jueteng flourished because franchises for the legal game had been awarded to the same people behind jueteng.

But Hagedorn strongly believes that "if revived now, STL may offer the best legal substitute for jueteng, which unfortunately and shameful as it sounds, is deeply embedded in the national fabric."

Hagedorn said he would also propose the creation of a Cabinet cluster to "monitor the introduction of STL, the ongoing jueteng eradication drive and the regulation of all illegal gambling activities in the country."

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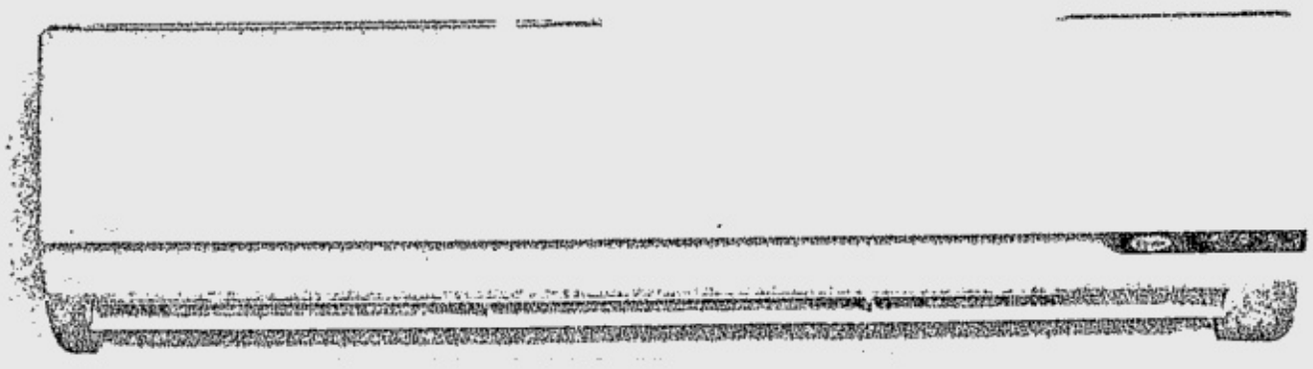

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Former public school teacher is DepEd OIC

By Alcuin Papa

A FORMER public school teacher who rose through the ranks at the Department of Education is its new officer in charge.

President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed DepEd Undersecretary for Programs and Projects Dr. Fe A. Hidalgo on Aug. 30.

Yesterday, DepEd officials and personnel endorsed her appointment as the next education secretary to Malacañang.

In a press conference at the DepEd central offices in Pasig City, Undersecretary for Operations and erstwhile Officer in Charge Ramon Bacani said officials and personnel of the department had thrown their support behind Hidalgo.

Bacani said Hidalgo's appointment as education secretary would ensure continuation of the reforms in the education sector and would "depoliticize" the DepEd.

"Education systems are more successful if they are nonpartisan. We don't want the issue of the next education secretary to be a political issue. We call on President Arroyo to heed our call to depoliticize the DepEd, consider the nomination of Dr. Fe Hidalgo, and appoint a professional secretary," Bacani said.

He said Hidalgo, who taught in classrooms in her native Batanes province and in Quezon City before joining the education department, could inspire and relate to teachers all over the country.

The department has been leaderless since Secretary Florencio Abad resigned on July 8 along with nine other government officials following President Arroyo's admission she had talked to a man believed to be former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano during the canvassing of votes for the May 2004 elections. The controversy became known as the "Hello Garci" wiretap scandal.

In the interim, the President appointed Undersecretary Bacani as officer in charge.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced Hidalgo's appointment in a briefing at Malacañang yesterday. But Bunye did not explain why Bacani was replaced with another OIC and not a permanent secretary.

Bacani is related to Rep. Rodolfo Bacani (LP, 4th dist. Manila), who revealed the administration's plan to kill the impeachment complaint against the President in the House, which resulted from the "Hello Garci" controversy, before she left for the US on Sept. 15. He is also related to Archbishop Teodoro Bacani, one of the Church leaders critical of Ms Arroyo. *With Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Miriam defends sister at CHEd

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday scoffed at insinuations that her sister's appointment to the Commission on Higher Education was a trade-off for her vote against the impeachment complaint lodged against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Santiago branded as unfair insinuations that the President's designation of her sister Dr. Nenalyn Defensor as CHEd Commissioner in late July was tied to the impeachment complaint pending before the House of Representatives.

"It has nothing to do with the impeachment. My sister was appointed Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education before the impeachment proceedings started," she said, reacting to criticisms that greeted her sister's appointment.

Dr. Defensor, 55, a former lecturer at the UP College of Education and former member of the senator's legislative staff, was named to the CHEd on July 21. She replaced Dr. Cristina Hidalgo who ended her term July 22.

Santiago said critics should focus on her sister's qualifications.

"I think the questions should be directed to the qualifications of the appointee. I think that is unfair to her as a professional that she should be dragged into this impeachment process simply because she's related to me," she said.

Dr. Defensor, who graduated cum laude from Western Visayas State University with a degree in education, has three master's degrees, including one in national security administration, and a doctorate in Philosophy in Education Administration. *TJ Burgonio*

Palace sees no urgency to bring Mike A, Mikey back from exile

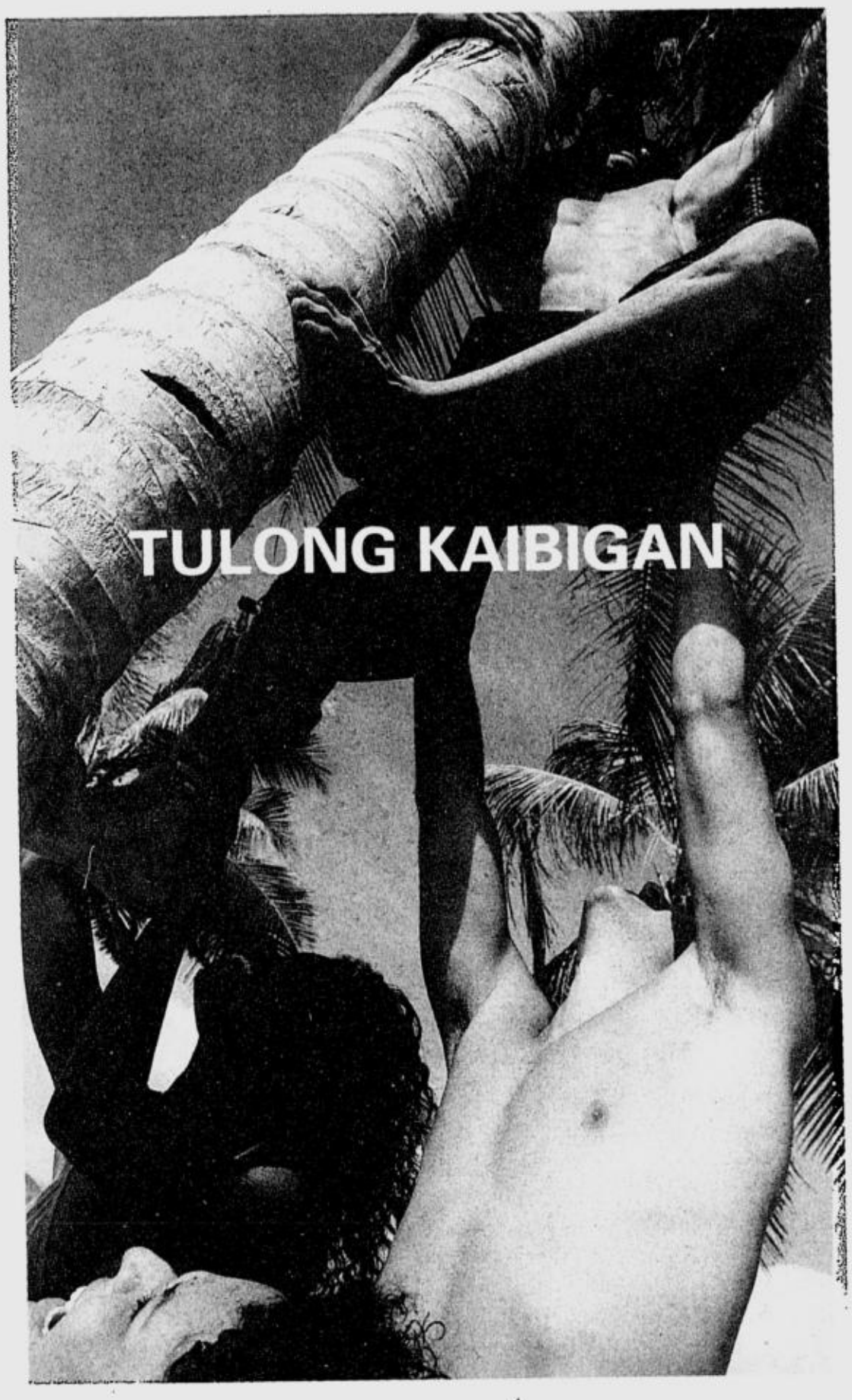
WITH the administration winning the first round of the impeachment case, Malacañang does not see the need to rush the return of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and his son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, from their self-imposed exile in the United States.

Neither is it keen on the formation of a Truth Commission as proposed by the Catholic Church nearly two months ago.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and her family had decided it was best that her husband and eldest son, who have been accused of receiving jueteng bribes, leave the country to take the heat off the President.

"This is the decision of the family and I think they (the two Arroyos) really want to give the President additional time to handle other important matters, not only the political noise, but also the oil crisis, terrorism, and the fiscal deficit," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a briefing.

After initially pushing all out for the creation of a Truth Commission alongside the impeachment process in Congress, Malacañang is now going slow on fulfilling one of the recommendations made by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in a pastoral letter last July 10 that was crucial in silencing the mounting calls for the President's resignation.



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SEC commissioner asks Palace to reconsider suspension

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SECURITIES and Exchange commissioner Jesus Martinez has filed a motion for reconsideration with Malacañang, asking the Legal Affairs Office to set aside a resolution suspending him for one year for allegedly failing to pay debts owed before his appointment.

In his motion, Martinez said the resolution, which reportedly came from the Palace, "had not been served to him," but for unexplained reasons was circulated at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the media by "undisclosed persons" which he said had caused him "immeasurable harm and embarrassment."

He asked the Legal Affairs Office to set aside the Aug. 17 resolution detailing his suspension and to dismiss the charges against him by a Dutch national with whom he had business dealings before he joined the SEC.

Martinez said it was necessary to put the motion for reconsideration on record to avoid any impairment of his functions as a commissioner of the SEC and to dispel any "wrong public impression."

"I am already getting raked. The public impression is that I have been meted out this penalty. Reality demands that I address this," he said.

Martinez said he was sure that the negative campaign against him was because of his desire to save the pre-need industry and his opting for careful deliberation before taking over the operations of certain pre-need firms.

He said he also believed that the complainant, Cornelio Lubberts, was being used by "parties who are masking their intentions."

"This case has nothing to do with my being in public service," he said.

In the Aug. 17 order, Martinez was found guilty of dishonest conduct prior to entering the government and ordered immediately suspended for one year.

Martinez, who was appointed to a seven-year term at the SEC on March 14, 2002, said he has not been served the order.

He said a copy of the assailed resolution was left on his desk and another SEC official also showed him a copy.

A STRONG APPEAL FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY & DISCLOSURE ON THE PRICE OF OIL TO DOE & OIL COMPANIES

The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) appealed to Committee on Trade & Commerce & Economic Affairs Chairman Mar Roxas, Senate Committee on Energy Chairperson Miriam Santiago & House Committee on Energy Chairman Alipio V. Badelles for their support in compelling the Department of Energy (DOE) and Oil Companies for greater transparency and disclosure in informing the public on changes in prices of petroleum products.

The COPW again calls for sobriety to oil companies and the DOE as world oil prices are at a record high in 20 years.

The COPW, in its requests for immediate response in its print ads, has NOT been adversarial and is hopeful that we can come together with a win-win solution that will provide the needed information to a worried and alarmed consuming public.

COPW WILL FILE FORMAL COMPLAINT TO DOE-DOJ TASK FORCE

- **The DOE and the Oil Companies have NOT responded to our appeal for an explanation on the substantial difference in the COPW and the Oil Companies' computation of oil prices for the month of August.**
- **We have NO recourse but to file a formal complaint invoking Section 14(d) of the Oil Deregulation Law which states that any unreasonable rise in the prices of petroleum products shall be acted immediately by the DOE-DOJ Task Force.**
- **We have likewise communicated with Chairman Carlos Alindada of the Independent Review Panel on Deregulation asking for an explanation why the DOE until NOW had not formed the DOE-DOJ Joint Task Force and had not appointed the Chairman and its members.**
- **We will request for a meeting with the IMF special team visiting the country on Sept. 7 and discuss to them the required revenue measures collection efficiency to reduce the budget deficit of the Government.**
- **We will likewise explain to U.S. investment bank MORGAN STANLEY that COPW is against oil price subsidies.**

DOE PRICE MONITORING SHIFTED TO INTERNATIONAL PRICES

In justifying the recent oil price increase, the DOE used the $ 74.87 record level international price of DIESEL based on BRENT sweet oil and the supply disruptions of Hurricane "Katrina" which have affected production in the Gulf of Mexico that accounts for 30% of the U.S. output as refineries have shut down.

The COPW insists on the following benchmarks:

1. **The NEW PLAYERS who import 100% finished oil products should use Means of Platts Singapore (MOPS) regional pricing.**

   In Asia, the MOPS DIESEL increased by ONLY $ 0.07 per barrel (June $ 71.31 vs. July $ 71.38), and as of Aug. 12th it EVEN dropped by $ (0.69) - (Avg Aug 12 $ 70.69 vs. July $ 71.38).

2. **The OIL REFINERS SHELL & PETRON should use DUBAI crude prices which ONLY increased by $ 1.75 per barrel (June $ 51.08 vs. July $ 52.83).**

   Using Dubai crude pricing, our refiners' crude cost is $ 18.97 or 34% cheaper than the price of the finished product in the United States of $ 14.87 because they use Brent sweet oil to refine their products.

COPW PROPOSAL - CREATE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COPW supports Senator Juan Ponce Enrile's SB 199 which restrains trade cartels, monopolies and price fixing, and proposes to Congress the creation of a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) patterned after the United States model.

U.S. Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy announced that "The oil prices are too high. President Bush realizes that the high gas prices are having effect mostly on family's bottom lines, & small businesses."

It has tasked the FTC and Justice Department to monitor for evidence of price GOUGING and if found, to act accordingly.

The (USA) Energy Department has created a website http://gaswatch.energy.gov for motorists to use to contact them if they suspect price gouging.

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Plan holders group presses fight vs PPI

By Alcuin Papa

IRATE plan holders of the Pacific Plans Inc. have brought charges of unsound banking practices against the beleaguered pre-need company's trustee bank, in the strongest salvo yet at PPI and its owners, the Yuchengco family.

In charges brought against officers of the trust department of the Yuchengco-owned Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) before the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEP Coalition) alleged that RCBC had conspired with the PPI to invest the pre-need company's trust fund in various businesses of the Yuchengco family.

These investments, the PEP said, led to the dissipation of the trust fund to the detriment of the plan holders.

As trustee bank, RCBC was entrusted with the trust fund of PPI's traditional education plans and was supposed to independently invest the fund in the interest of the plan holders.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, RCBC said that all transactions involving the PPI trust fund were within the regulations established by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the BSP.

PPI president Alfredo Non said the allegations of fraud and supposed mismanagement of funds have been brought before the Makati City court hearing PPI's petition for rehabilitation which he said was "the proper forum."

Injured RP eagle rescued

By Blanche S. Rivera

A PHILIPPINE eagle, one of only around 600 left in the country, has been rescued by a farmer in Isabela and is to be turned over to the government today.

The eagle, which was slightly injured, is to be flown by plane to Metro Manila and turned over to the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau in Quezon City.

Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro said the farmer, Benjamin Lucero, found the eagle feeding on a *baboy damo*(wild boar) that had been caught in a chicken trap at his farm in Barangay Gumiñan, San Pablo, Isabela.

Lucero kept the eagle for a week before deciding to turn it over to Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III, who informed the PAWB about it.

"We have to assess the condition of the eagle to see if it's fit for release back to the wild or if it needs to be rehabilitated first," said De Castro, who is spearheading the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' wildlife preservation campaign.

He said the eagle had sustained slight injuries in the feet because it was also caught in the chicken trap, but the wounds were not serious. The PAWB office in Cagayan Valley has been giving the "weakened" bird some vitamins.

"A Philippine eagle is sensitive... Maybe it weakened during the time it was kept in the farm," PAWB executive director Mundita Lim said.

The eagle was described as "matured," which means it is at least two years old.

The Philippine eagle has been declared an endangered bird species.

All white sand, no soil for Boracay dump

THE PROBLEM with paradise is that it's all white sand.

In world-renowned Boracay island, environment and local government officials are at their wits' end trying to find soil cover to convert the illegal open dumpsite on the island to a controlled dump.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has said it could not close down the open dumpsite, which has been banned by law since last year, because there was no disposal site for the island resort.

Lawyer Zoilo Andin, DENR special action officer for Boracay, said the DENR and local government have spent the past three months looking for top soil that could serve as cover for the open dumpsite.

"There's really no source of top soil. Where do you get the soil in Boracay? You can't use white sand," Andin said in an interview.

He said the DENR has identified at least four properties that passed the government's standards as top soil sources, but the lot owners have refused to let the local government extract soil from their properties, even for a fee.

Blanche S. Rivera

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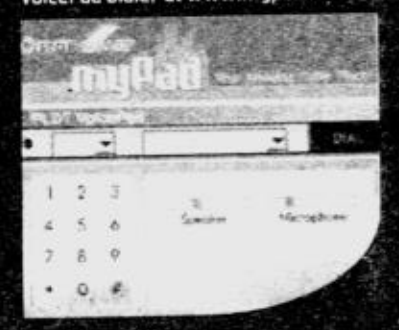

PLDT

September brings terror jitters to Indonesia

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

JAKARTA—Indonesia is increasing its level of readiness and alertness against terrorism as the "special period" of September-October approaches.

September and October are especially worrisome months for Indonesia because it was in October 2002 that two nightclubs on the resort island of Bali were bombed by terrorists and it was in September 2004 that a car bomb attack occurred just outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. Sept. 11, 2005 is the fourth anniversary of the plane attack on the twin towers of the Trade Center in New York.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, addressing the Asian-European Editors Forum on Monday, said: "We have to increase our readiness… We have to take measures to prevent terrorist acts."

He ordered his security officers to increase the level of alertness against possible terrorist attacks, saying that terrorist cells were still active and might be planning another attack.

"We are still actively looking for dangerous bomb makers, Malaysian Dr. Azahari and Noordin Muhammad Top," Yudhoyono said.

Yudhoyono said that fighting terrorism would continue to be the top priority of Indonesia.

"We will continue to pursue these terrorist groups wherever they may be hiding," he said. "We will continue our international cooperation involving the police, intelligence and immigration."

He cited the close cooperation between the Philippines and Indonesia in combating terrorism and transnational crimes, and said they were improving intelligence and surveillance by air and other means.

Indonesia has suffered some of the deadliest terrorist attacks in Asia in the last three years. Aside from the Bali bombing in 2002 and the car bomb attack outside the Australian Embassy in September last year, the other deadly attack was that on the Marriott Hotel in August 2003.

On Tuesday Sidney Jones, Southeast Asia project director of the International Crisis Group, said that the Philippines and Thailand are "the black holes" in terrorism in Southeast Asia.

"In the Philippines, some of the most experienced Indonesian bomb-makers have moved away from the MILF and joined forces with the Abu Sayyaf Group and a group of Christian converts to Islam to move northward and engaged in more proficient and well-coordinated attacks, of which the Valentine's Day bombing was one example," she said.

Jones said the skilled terrorist bombers were all trying to get to Mindanao, "which is bad news for the Philippines, but they're having increasing difficulty getting there."

She said that while there was no hard evidence of Jemaah Islamiyah involvement in Thailand's insurgency—which looks a lot more like Aceh in 1990 than it does like a regional jihad—Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's policies might yet send it in that direction.

Jones said that in Indonesia there are some positive developments, "but the threat is far from over."

"Jemaah Islamiyah as an institution may no longer constitute the largest threat," she said. "It's alive, intact, consolidating, actively recruiting, but most of its leaders are not interested in bombing Western targets."

Other highlights of Jones' briefing:

- There are some indications that the renegade JI members who are committed to bombing Western targets, Nurdin Moh Top and Azhari, may have formed a kind of suicide brigade, but information is very sketchy.
- Singapore and Malaysia were out ahead in the fight against terrorism early on but Indonesia has made major accomplishments since Bali. More than 200 people are behind bars. The police have gone systematically after JI and Darul Islam, and many are getting stiff sentences. Two of the men involved in the Australian Embassy bombing were recently sentenced to life imprisonment.
- On the ideological front in Indonesia, there is positive movement but it's not coming as a result of exhortations from moderate Muslims or strengthening moderate Muslim organizations or from fostering the kind of pluralism Muslim thinker Nurcolish Madjid represented. It's coming from splits within the salafi jihadi ranks resulting from self-inflicted wounds.

Sidney said the JI has been seriously damaged. She said that it can't be called an al-Qaida affiliate now because most of the men committed to the al-Qaida line of global jihad against the United States seem to have been marginalized within the organization.

Don't let impeach row cloud terror threat – Gonzales

THE PHILIPPINES' top national security official yesterday urged the public not to be distracted by the current political turmoil as he renewed warnings of possible terrorist attacks in the capital.

"I am repeating them because I am afraid that the political environment could be clouding the situation," National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said, referring to efforts to impeach the President. "I do not want the public's attention to be distracted. They have to know that this threat is real."

He said attacks could occur at any time, based on roughly six-month "cycles" of terror activities in the Philippines.

In July, two separate bombings in southern Zamboanga City wounded 30 people. An incendiary bomb exploded on a ferry on Sunday on Basilan island near Zamboanga, wounding more than 30 and killing a boy.

In February, nearly simultaneous explosions in the financial district of Makati City and two southern cities killed four people and wounded dozens. In February 2004, a bomb-triggered fire on a ferry on Manila Bay killed 116 people.

The police blamed the attacks on the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group.

He added that "two to four" suicide bombers from the Indonesia-based terror group Jemaah Islamiyah may have already entered the capital. He earlier said Indonesian security authorities informed the Philippines that 10 suicide bombers have slipped into the country.

Gonzales said authorities have uncovered a terrorist plan to make and detonate a 1,000-kg (2,200-pound) bomb, but security forces earlier this year seized 600 kg (1,320-pound) of explosives.

He said the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah, which has trained local terrorists, could still have the "balance" of 400 kg (880 pounds) or are procuring more explosives to continue building the giant bomb.

"We cannot disregard (the existence of the explosives) because the noises we are getting through communications is that money is coming in at a regular basis," Gonzales said. "They are aware that they lost 600, but they are saying that materials could be available."

He said he did not want to cause panic. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 2, 2005
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 1:15-20
Gospel: Luke 5:33-39

The Scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, "The disciples of John fast often and say long prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why is it that your disciples eat and drink?" Then Jesus said to them, "You can't make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them. But later the bridegroom will be taken from them and they will fast in those days."

Jesus also told them this parable, "No one tears a piece from a new coat to put it on an old one; otherwise the new will be torn and the piece taken from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed as well. But new wine must be put into fresh skins. Yet no one who has tasted old wine is eager to get new wine, but says: The old is good."

Commentary

Jesus is put on the spot: why don't your disciples fast like other teachers? And Jesus declares that his presence on earth is a wedding feast (echoes of Isaiah and the coming of the one who would bring feasting to the poor and justice to the nations). But he is also realistic and tells them the day will come when they will fast from his presence because of the evil people do. And in two short parables: the torn cloth and patches, and the new wine in old skins he tries to impress on them the newness and radical difference his presence brings to the world, to everything realities and celebrations of life. So many will prefer the old and spurn the new. He is the new thing that God is doing in the world: incarnation—our God made flesh among us. Do we rejoice and make sure that others know the bridegroom is in our midst?

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Extra working day paying off for Customs

By Leila B. Salaverria

WORKING extra days is paying off for the Bureau of Customs.

Customs Commissioner Alexander Arevalo said in a statement the bureau was able to collect P730 million in taxes last Saturday and Monday, when it remained open while all other government offices were closed.

He said the collections for the two days worked to reduce the P6.67-billion deficit in customs collections for the first seven months of the year.

On Saturday, the BOC collected P130 million. It was the first Saturday the bureau was open for operations—from 7 a.m to 7 p.m. following its weekday schedule. The BOC will be open Saturdays from now on.

Arevalo had earlier directed that customs offices be open an extra day in the week in order to drum up more revenue.

The commissioner said the P130 million collected was small compared to the bureau's usual weekday earnings that range from P500 million to P700 million, but that he expected the amount to rise in the coming Saturdays.

Increase in collections

"Because Saturday was the first extra day rendered by the bureau, collections on the following Saturdays will increase by as much as P300 million," he said in a statement.

On Monday, the BOC collected P600 million. The government declared the day a holiday for all schools and government offices save for the customs bureau in observance of National Heroes Day which is celebrated on the last Sunday of August.

The BOC is targeting collections of P151 billion for the year. Its earnings account for around 20 percent of the government's revenues.

Former Customs Commissioner Alberto Lina, whom Arevalo replaced, praised his successor's decision to open the bureau on Saturdays.

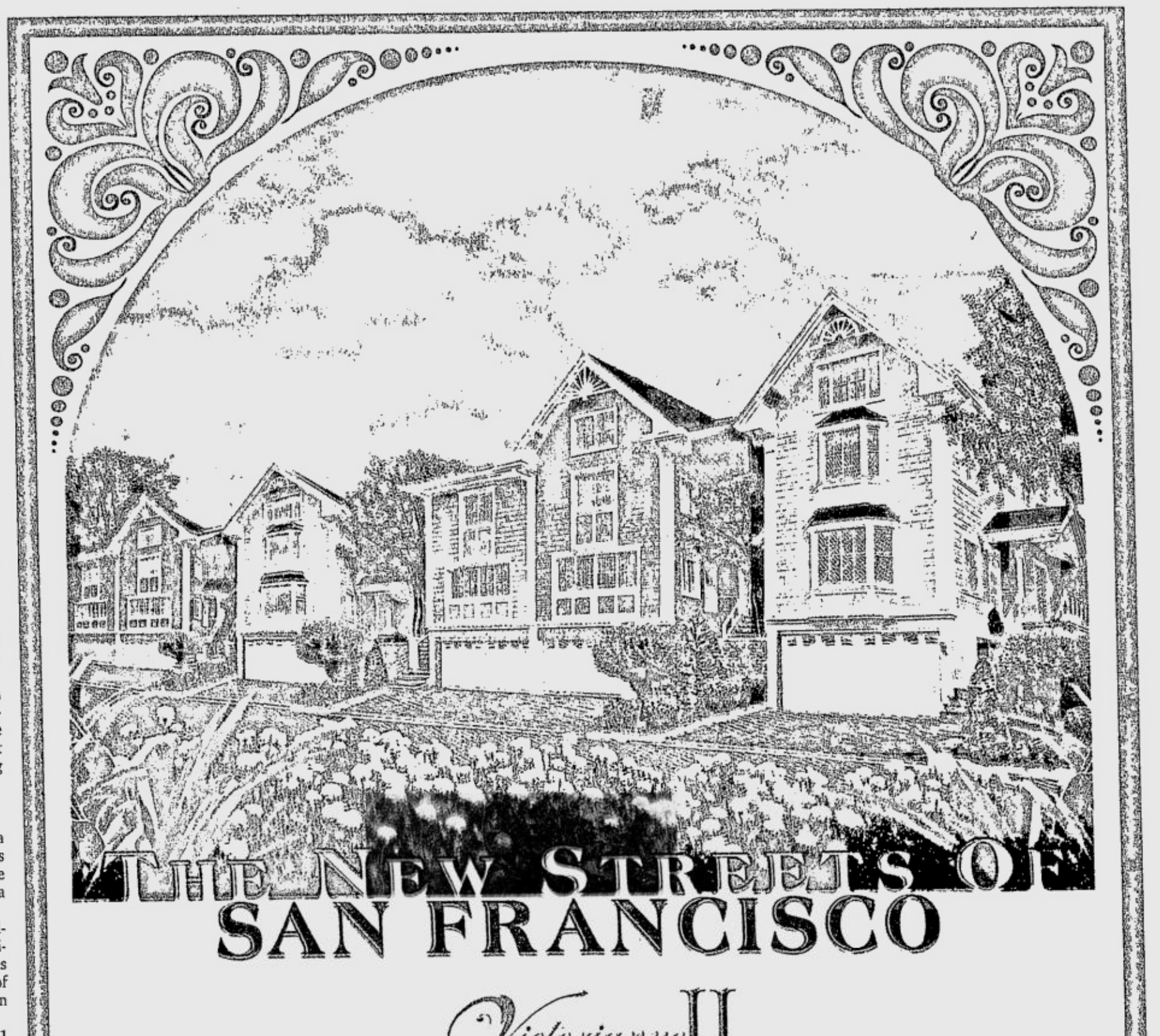
In an interview, he advised BOC officials to consider keeping the bureau open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We have to be globally competitive. With regard to export and import operations, the bureau should be open 24/7. The world we are dealing with never sleeps," he told the INQUIRER on Monday.

Lina said keeping the BOC open 24/7 would also lower the cost of doing business because exporters and importers would not have to pay additional fees that result from delays in the processing of their transactions with the bureau.

Lina resigned on July 8 along with nine other administration officials amid accusations of electoral fraud hurled against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The officials, tagged as the Hyatt 10 after the hotel where they announced their resignation, also called on the President to step down.



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Our apologies

All is not lost for GMA foes, say legal experts

By TJ Burgonio, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Norman Bordadora

LEGAL eagles agree that all is not lost for the proimpeachment lawmakers until the House decides on a report its justice committee will submit on Monday killing the move to unseat President Macapagal Arroyo.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago dismissed the opposition claim that it had little time to come up with the 79 signatures required to get the impeachment trial going in the Senate.

"The only strategy that is viable for the opposition at this time is to start the debate on the floor, and then engage in filibuster," said the staunch Arroyo defender.

A lawmaker can talk endlessly during the filibuster in spite of a "cloture rule," which is seldom followed, Santiago said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo's advise to the opposition: "They can simply regroup, be less indolent, work hard to get that magic 79 votes. That done, there is nothing the majority can do. The President will have to go to trial in the Senate. Without the 79, there is nothing that the opposition can do. Arguments no longer matter, but numbers do."

The administration maverick said Tuesday's walkout by the opposition during the committee hearing and the panel's vote to throw out all impeachment complaints left "a much weakened opposition and a limping President."

"You walk out if you will achieve a purpose," said Arroyo.

Impeachment: Still a number of what ifs

From page A1

entire House its report together with the corresponding resolution for or against impeachment.

Necessarily, the committee will have to submit with its report the three resolutions it arrived at on Wednesday: The resolutions (1) barring the Lopez complaint and the amended complaint, (2) declaring the Lozano complaint sufficient in form, and (3) declaring the Lozano complaint insufficient in substance.

By a vote of one-third of all the members, that is, 79 votes, the plenary can either uphold or reject each of these committee resolutions. The vote will have to be a roll-call vote. Then what?

Possible SC case

If the plenary upholds the decision of the committee rejecting the Lopez complaint and the amended complaint, I can see the possibility of bringing the matter to the Supreme Court.

The issue would be whether these two complaints are indeed barred by the one-year ban found in Section 3(5) which says: "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

In 2003 the Supreme Court in the Davide impeachment case already had occasion to decide the meaning and scope of this prohibition.

In an earlier column I ventured the opinion that the facts in the current controversy do not match the facts in the 2003 decision. If the court entertains a complaint on this matter, the court case might delay the impeachment process.

If, however, the plenary rejects the committee's exclusion of the amended complaint, a decision will next have to be made whether the amended complaint is sufficient in form and substance.

I believe that this would not be a difficult matter to decide. Sufficiency of substance simply means that "there is a recital of facts constituting the offense charged and determinative of the jurisdiction of the committee, and there is a reasonable ground to believe that the wrongdoing charged has been committed based on the complaint and the evidence by the complainant."

Unclear

But another complication might intervene before the matter is taken up by the plenary. The opposition might succeed in gathering 79 or more signatures in support of the amended complaint. What then? Will the complaint now go directly to the Senate for trial?

The answer to this question is not clear even if this is what happened in the attempt to impeach then President Joseph Estrada. The pertinent constitutional provision says: "In case the verified complaint or resolution of impeachment is filed by at least one-third of all the members of the House, the same shall constitute the Articles of Impeachment, and trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed."

When the complaint was originally filed, it was not filed by one-third of the members of the House. The one-third target was reached only sometime later. But once reached, then House Speaker Manuel Villar immediately sent it to the Senate. No one effectively challenged Villar's act. Hence, the trial proceeded.

Another complication

If someone had gone to court to challenge the act of Villar, would the court have entertained the challenge? Lawyers are still debating about that today.

Hence, if the 79 target is reached soon, we will have another complication if there is no agreement as to whether the signature of 79 will authorize Speaker Jose de Venecia to do a Villar.

Speaker De Venecia has been quoted as saying that he will do a Villar if the 79 target is reached. Will he really?

Minimum expectation

If, however, the 79 target upholding the sufficiency in substance of the amended complaint is reached only in plenary, or if the plenary reverses the committee decision saying that the Lozano complaint is not sufficient in substance, the Rules on Impeachment now require that the complaints be returned to the committee for formal investigation. This investigation will be open to the public and it is then that both sides will have the opportunity to present their evidence for or against. Thereafter the committee will once again make a report and recommendations.

If the recommendation is for the trial to proceed and this is upheld by a vote of one-third of the House, then the committee will prepare the Articles of Impeachment and the House will appoint the prosecution team. But if the one-third vote is not reached, that ends the impeachment complaint.

What is the minimum expectation of those who support impeachment? Their minimum expectation is that the proceeding will at least reach the investigation stage when evidence can be formally aired in public.

Battle rages for 79 signatures for final stand

From page A1

Agbayani said he had submitted a manifestation to the House secretary general because he was scheduled to go abroad on Sunday on a trip that was organized by the special committee on reforestation long before the impeachment complaints were filed.

Only 48

With Agbayani's withdrawal, the proimpeachment camp was left with only 48 signatures formally submitted to the House secretary general. The plenary is expected to vote on the committee report dismissing the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo on Monday.

Butz Aquino blamed Angara for Agbayani's defection.

"Isn't it obvious that he had a hand in this? He has always been suspected as pro-Gloria," said Aquino, a member of the LDP faction led by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"It's an absolute falsehood. It's the work of my political enemy. Agbayani is a very intelligent and responsible public servant who can't be dictated upon by anybody," Angara said.

Wishful thinking

In Malacañang, Ms Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Claudio said it was "wishful thinking" on the part of the proimpeachment team they would secure 79 votes.

A Palace official, who asked not to be identified, said four more congressmen were expected to withdraw their endorsements.

"There is a creeping demoralization in the minority," the official told the INQUIRER in trying to explain why the early endorsers were having a change of heart.

In a phone interview, Claudio said he doubted the opposition needed just six more signatures.

"The more they make those claims, the more apparent that they are bluffing," he said. "Obviously, they're stepping up their psywar to gain their numbers."

Up and down

Despite Agbayani's defection, Escudero and Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said they were confident the proimpeachment team would get more than the required number.

"Every hour, the configuration changes. This is really a tug of war until the last moment when we get the 79 votes," Casiño said.

Escudero added: "Definitely, [the number is] increasing but, you know, this is like a swing now that the [critical vote on Monday] is nearing. It goes up and then it goes down. We get two additional votes, but then one withdraws. We get three more, but two are deducted. This is probably the story of impeachment in the country. But we are confident and we believe that we will muster the required numbers.

"We should remember that we are up against the highest and most powerful official in the country. It cannot be denied that this is an uphill battle. But we are not going to stop until we gather the required 79 votes, or more than that."

Casiño said some of those who had promised to sign wanted their names revealed only during the plenary voting.

"We're trying to convince them that it would be too late by then, and that it's better that they sign. We need only six more votes but our target is more or less 20 votes," he said.

Escudero said the higher target of 20 was needed as a buffer against possible defections.

"They say that if we get 79, one would withdraw. But how sure are they that we would muster only 79?" he said, laughing.

'Second of a series'

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles cautioned the opposition against being too optimistic, saying Agbayani's decision to withdraw was the "second of a series" started by Ave partylist Rep. Eulogio Rodriguez.

Nograles had claimed that more than a week ago, seven impeachment endorsers were having secret talks with him to determine how they could withdraw their signatures.

He said five more were coming out to pledge support to Ms Arroyo.

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said leaders of the impeachment team had divided themselves into five groups to get more signatures.

An administration lawmaker who had signed the complaint admitted to the INQUIRER that he was the leader of one of the five groups now going "house to house."

"We have decided to bring the issues right at the doorstep of our fellow lawmakers who are sympathetic to our cause but have yet to affix their signatures," said the legislator who asked not to be named.

He reiterated what Escudero said the other day—that the proimpeachment team would overcome on Monday the majority's "tyranny of numbers."

'No shame'

Escudero said the lawmakers who had withdrawn their endorsements admitted that they could not resist the pressure from Malacañang.

"The picture keeps on changing," he said. "[Ms Arroyo] has no shame [when she] personally calls [lawmakers]. At least [Joseph Estrada] had his pride, saying, 'I won by the biggest margin [in any presidential race] in this country's history. How can they do this to me?'"

Escudero said the opposition would insist on Monday that the plenary vote separately on the dismissal of the three impeachment complaints.

He said the House impeachment rules required that any complaint dismissed by the justice committee would have to be reported in plenary.

Escudero also said that if the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order against the impeachment process, "we're not duty-bound [to follow it]."

"Actually, that would be a constitutional crisis because Congress and the tribunal are separate and co-equal branches of government. And Congress is performing a constitutional function which the Constitution itself places on the House [to perform]," he said.

According to Escudero, impeachment is "the only legal, constitutional, peaceful way for the President to answer for her wrongdoing."

'Express train'

Dubbed by Cayetano as the President's "express train," the House justice committee voted in rapid succession on Wednesday to recognize the original complaint filed by Oliver Lozano, effectively dismissing the complaint filed by Jose Lopez and the opposition's amended complaint.

The committee then voted to declare the Lozano complaint sufficient in form, only to declare it insufficient in substance by nightfall.

The committee then proceeded to approve its report in principle.

According to administration Rep. Rodolfo Antonino, the report, which is to be presented to the plenary on Monday for adoption, found that the amended and Lopez complaints were barred by the Lozano complaint; that the three were separate complaints; and that the Lozano complaint, although sufficient in form, was insufficient in substance.

On Tuesday, the proimpeachment legislators walked out when justice committee chair Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong stopped further debate and called for a vote on the "prejudicial questions."

The pros claimed that the proceedings were being railroaded. But pro-Arroyo lawmakers claimed the opposition was using its own theatrics, and called the walkout a desperate, premeditated bid to trigger street protests.

Disunity

Cayetano admitted that disunity was the opposition's biggest weakness.

"There is so much information. But the lack of adequate coordination [among us] prevented us from releasing the evidence at the proper time," he said, observing that the pros came from different political parties with divergent views.

"We were able to present to the public only 15 percent of our evidence to support the amended impeachment complaint. The people saw only the icing on the cake," he said.

Cayetano also lamented the lack of "public pressure" to compel House members to sign the amended complaint.

"With greater public pressure and evidence out in the open, not only would we get the 79, it would be much difficult for the administration to kill the impeachment in a thick-skinned way, which was what happened," he said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

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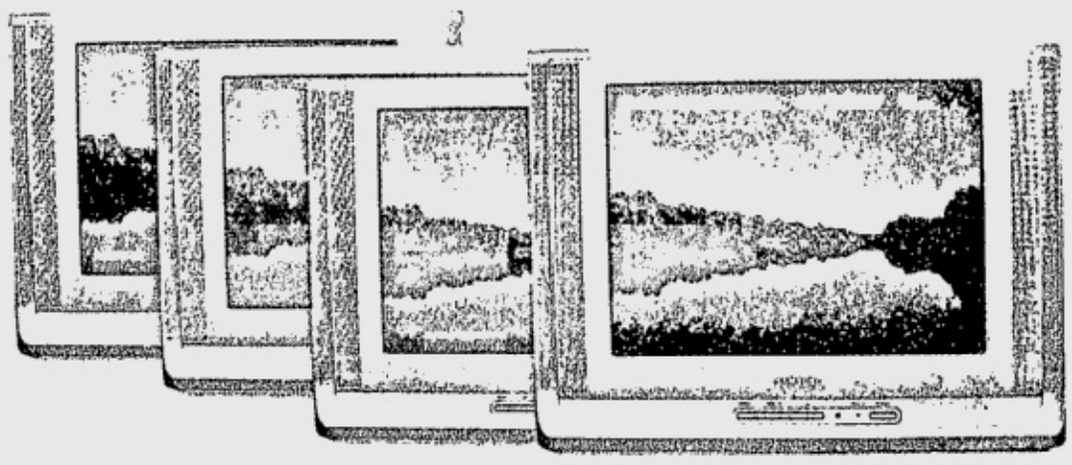

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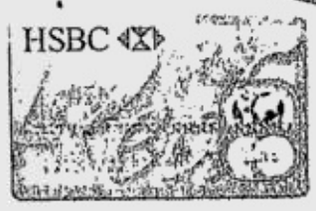

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Stampede loss overshadows daily bloodshed of Iraq war

BAGHDAD—Crowds gathered on Thursday for the funerals of some 1,000 Iraqis killed in a stampede during a religious festival, as the nation grieved over a tragedy which has overshadowed the daily bloodshed of war.

Funeral tents were erected in the impoverished Baghdad Shiite suburb of Sadr City as relatives prepared to mourn their dead, before most of the bodies were due to begin their final journey to Najaf, the most holy Shiite city, for burial.

Three days of official mourning will quieten a country inured to mass killing on its streets but shocked by the disaster.

At least 965 people were confirmed to have died on Wednesday when thousands of Shiite pilgrims rushed for imagined safety onto a bridge across the Tigris in Baghdad, only to die in the river below or crushed on the roadway.

The final toll, one senior official said, was likely to be more than 1,000 as bodies were counted scattered across hospitals, makeshift morgues and family homes across the city.

They lay under white sheets, under foil blankets and makeshift shrouds, in corridors and on pavements, as anxious or grieving relatives searched for loved ones among the dead.

Though fears of sectarian attacks, real or imagined, may have contributed to the fear that drove the pilgrims to their deaths, the shock was felt across the factional divides.

People streamed to help from Aadhamiya, the mainly Sunni Arab district across the river from the Kadhimiya shrine that was the focus of Shiite worship on Wednesday.

A barrage of mortar and rocket attacks on the crowd, some 200,000 strong or more, had added to the tension early in the day. It killed seven people and was claimed by a Sunni group avowing links to the insurgency against the US-backed, Shiite-led government.

Then, whether by malicious design or simple panic, a warning from within the crowd of a suicide bomber among them sparked a rush for safety that proved illusory. Blood dripped from concrete walls around the bridge. Bodies drifted in the river.

"Hundreds of people started running and some threw themselves off the bridge into the river," a police source said.

"Many elderly died immediately ... but dozens drowned, many bodies are still in the river and boats are working on picking them up."

Most victims were women and children who "died by drowning or being trampled," an Interior Ministry official said.

It was by far the biggest loss of life in such a crowd since more than 1,400 pilgrims died at Mecca during the haj in 1990.

Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari declared three days of mourning.

Constant coverage on national television included an appeal for relatives to claim a baby held up to the camera. He was found next to his mother's body.

Interior Minister Bayan Jabor and two other top Shiite officials blamed Sunni insurgents for the stampede, saying one had spread the rumor there was a suicide bomber in the crowd.

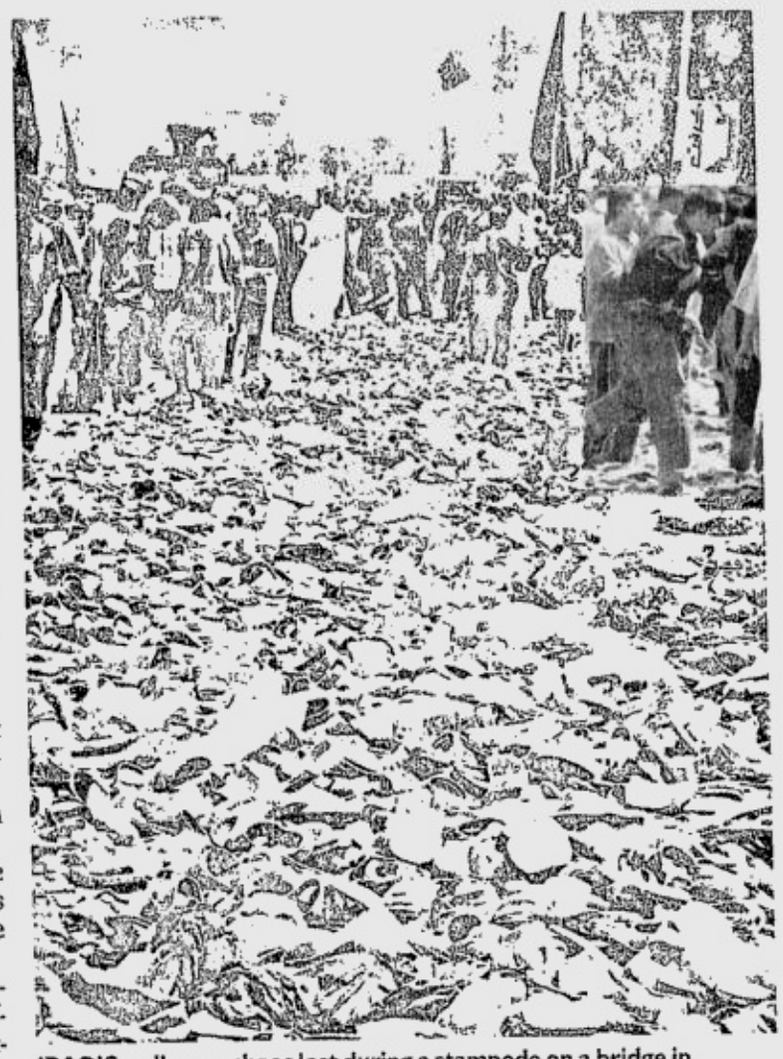
But Defense Minister Saadoun al-Dulaimi, a Sunni Arab himself, said the stampede was not related to sectarian tensions gripping the country since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Some witnesses blamed poor organization for the death toll.

Whatever sparked the rush for safety, the fear that a bomber might be on the loose was well grounded after previous attacks on Shiite religious events in the past two years.

Tensions are high among Iraq's rival religious and ethnic communities ahead of a referendum on a new constitution for the post-Saddam Hussein era.

Television images showed people clambering down from the bridge to escape the surging crowd and piles of slippers left behind by the crush of people. *Reuters*



IRAQIS walk over shoes lost during a stampede on a bridge in Baghdad Aug. 31. Many of the dead drowned after falling off a bridge in a surge of panic triggered by rumors there were suicide bombers in the crowd, in what is by far the deadliest single incident since the US-led war on Iraq. AFP

Unleashed text-messaging genie worries Asia

By Mark Bendeich

KUALA LUMPUR—For Asian governments, text-messaging is no longer a matter of twiddling their thumbs.

Asia is cracking down on a technology that has become a powerful social tool, used to organize mass protests, sow wild rumors, perpetrate crime and, it is feared, trigger bombs.

From Southeast Asia, where authorities say they are motivated by security and public-nuisance concerns, to Greater China, where scams and spam seem to be the major worry, text-messaging by anonymous mobile-phone users has caused a huge, ringing headache.

In the developing countries of Asia, most mobile-phone users are faceless because they use pre-paid phone cards, which can be bought for a few dollars without giving a name and address.

But anxious governments are changing all that.

This month, Malaysia ordered phone companies to register all holders of pre-paid services after text-messaging gossip-mongers hit a raw nerve with false talk that the premier's ailing wife had died. The rumor grew so large, he felt compelled to deny it.

Text-messaging in Asia has become a rumor mill to be reckoned with, able to turn a shred of misinformation into a national talking point worthy of a government denial.

It is also deemed a security risk.

Thailand moved to register users of pre-paid phones in May, describing it as part of efforts to stop terrorists using mobile phones to set off bombs. Thai security forces have become targets for a campaign of bombings in the country's mainly Muslim south.

Shanghai, China's richest city with 20 million people, will require registration of pre-paid users from September to tackle text-message fraud, the Shanghai Daily said at the weekend.

Last year, Taiwan also sought to identify pre-paid phone users, fed up with conmen using the cover of anonymity to separate gullible people from their money with scams ranging from simple credit-card tricks to bogus kidnappings.

One Reuters reporter got a call from a "kidnapper" demanding ransom for her husband—who was sitting right next to her.

"This has become an issue over the last year, particularly in the Asia-Pacific," said Nick Ingelbrecht, principal analyst on mobile communications for US-based research firm Gartner Group.

"There is a lot happening and the reasons are quite wide-ranging," he said. "In Japan, there's a lot of pressure from within the industry to clamp down on pre-paid because it has a criminal side—it's a way for criminal gangs to communicate."

Few countries know the power of text-messaging better than the Philippines, where a lightning campaign rallied hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets in 2001 in a "people power" uprising that ousted President Joseph Estrada.

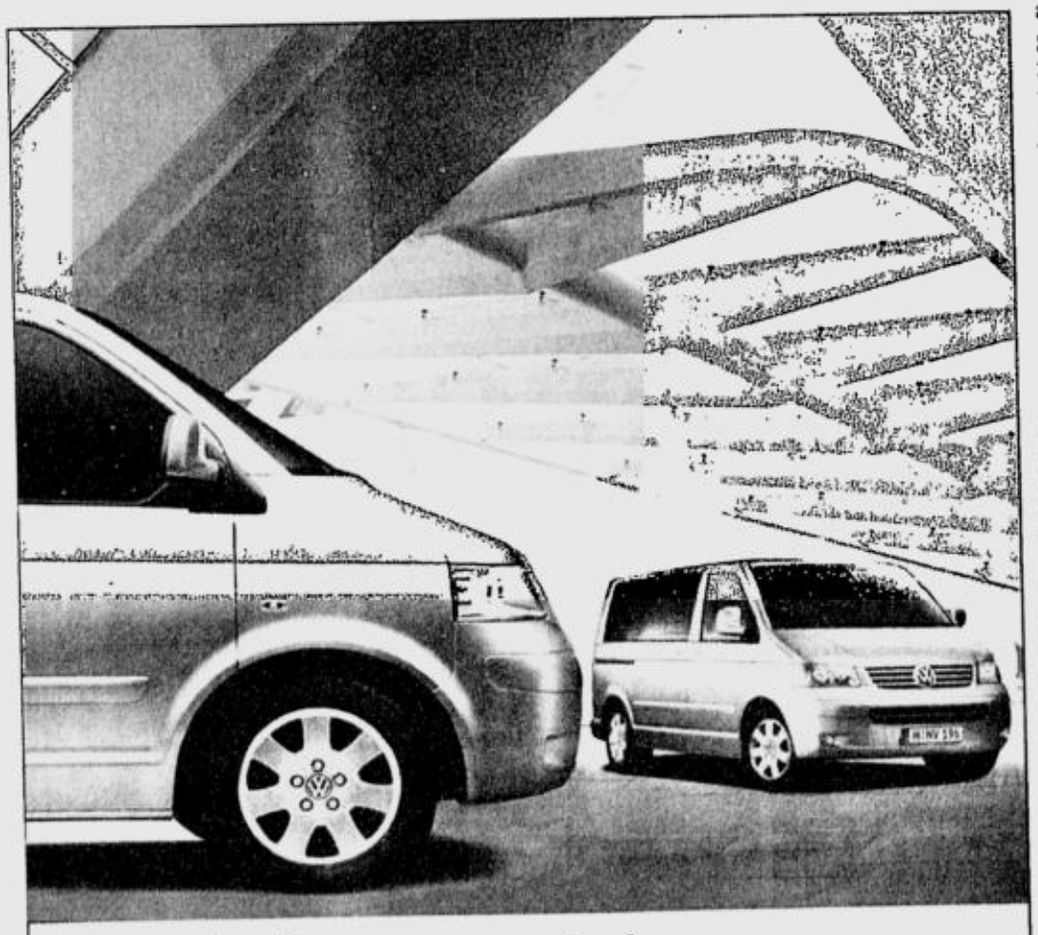
At least 200 million text or SMS messages are sent every day in the Philippines —that's more than two for every Filipino and earns the country its reputation as the world's SMS capital.

Any attempt by Manila to limit or control text messaging draws fierce resistance and there are groups dedicated to protecting text messaging rights. A proposal to impose a tax on texting was shelved this year after stiff public opposition.

Filipinos still do not have to give their identities when buying pre-paid phone cards.

"The main attraction of pre-paid in Asia is that these are low-income countries and subscribers want to control their spending," said Karen Ang, a Bangkok-based telecoms analyst for Citigroup. "But being able to buy a pre-paid card without giving up a lot of information about yourself is also an attraction."

Pre-paid cards are turning Asia into the fastest-growing telecom market, making up about 60 percent of users in China and over 90 percent in Indonesia and the Philippines at end-2004, according to Gartner. In the Asia-Pacific, including Japan, about 53 percent of the region's 670 million mobile-phone users are on pre-paid cards, and the proportion is growing, Gartner estimates. *Reuters*



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Indonesia braces for oil crunch

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

JAKARTA—Indonesia, following the example of the Philippines, is deregulating its oil industry and withdrawing government oil subsidies.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday said that deregulation was one of a five-point package of policies designed to help his country cope with rising oil prices in the world market. The price of crude now ranges between $67 and $70 per barrel.

Addressing the Asian-European Editors' Forum here, Yudhoyono said the other planks of the government's policy package are:

1. The diversification of energy sources and a search for alternative sources.
2. An energy conservation campaign.
3. Increased oil production—from 1.1 million barrels a day to 1.4 MBD in the next four years—and the establishment of more oil refineries.
4. An intensified campaign against the smuggling of gasoline.

Yudhoyono recalled that in March he decided to reduce government subsidies on some petroleum products, "a move that sparked some protest but was economically necessary."

If the trend of rising oil prices continues, he said, the government will have to pay 145 trillion rupiah (about $13 million) in subsidies, which constitutes more than one-fourth of Indonesia's national budget.

"This is a lot of money—money that can be used to build schools, hospitals, roads and other things that can stimulate growth and productivity," he said.

Yudhoyono said the problem of rising oil prices, government subsidies and the need to meet the energy needs of the poor would continue to be at the top of government's economic agenda.

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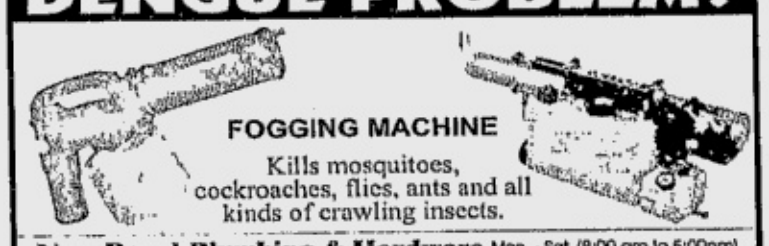

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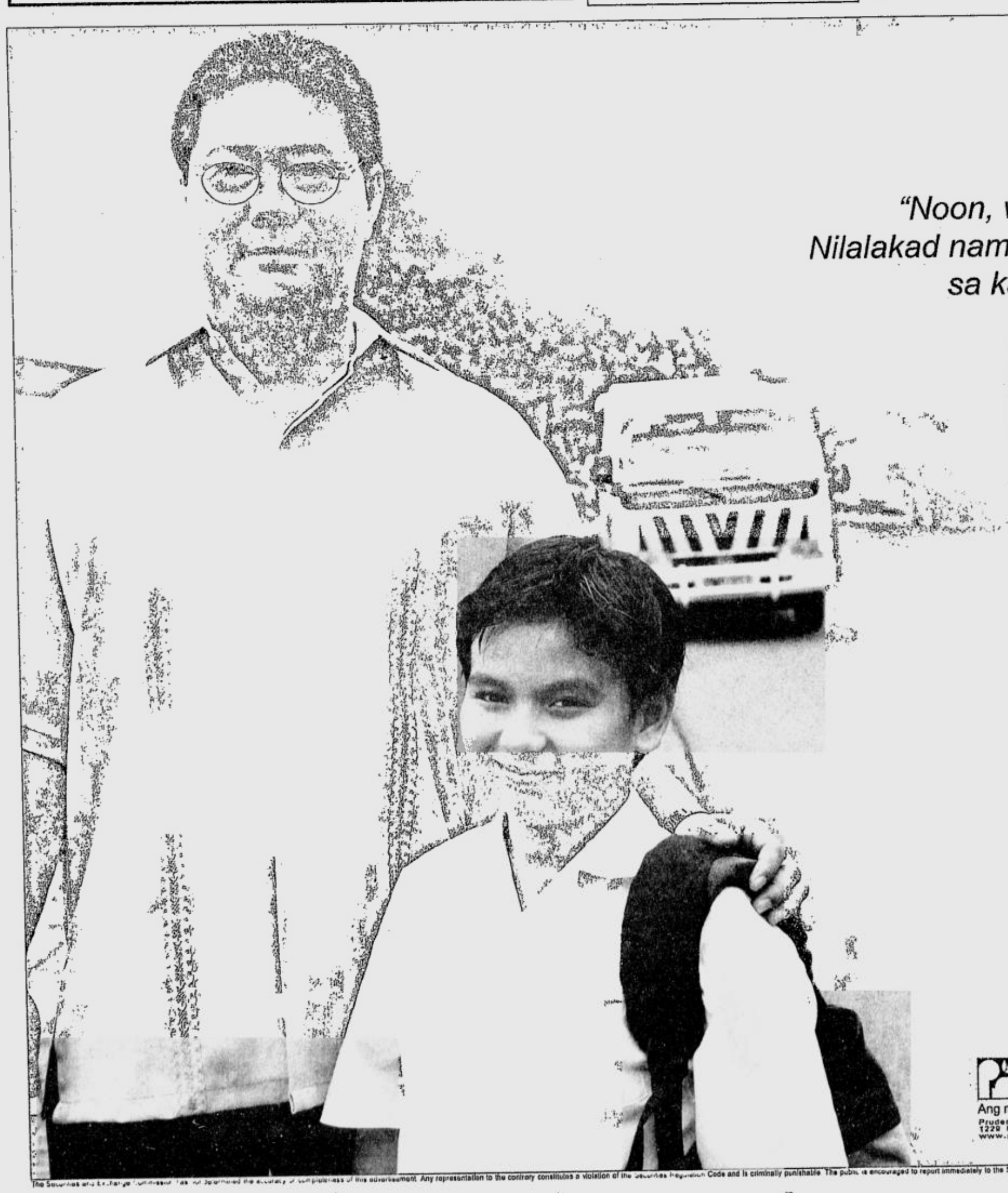

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Libyans fete Kadhafi anniversary

TRIPOLI—Hundreds of thousands of Libyans, brandishing banners and chanting their support, converged on Tripoli Wednesday to celebrate the 36th anniversary of Col. Moamer Kadhafi's seizure of power.

Martyrs Square in central Tripoli was transformed into a spectacular street party with people pulsing to traditional music that thumped out of speakers, and fireworks, fountain and light displays cascading over the sea.

A bespectacled Kadhafi, dressed in an untucked sleeveless military shirt and looking relaxed, appeared late in the evening to receive the adulation of the crowds from a balcony and accept gifts from supporters.

He was handed a document entitled "the charter of fidelity," said by the organizers to have been signed "by the Libyan people," in which they "forge allegiance and swear fidelity to their guide."

The mercurial leader, who at 27 years toppled King Idris in a coup d'etat on Sept. 1, 1969 with other military officers, was expected to address the throngs of people gathered in the Libyan capital on Thursday.

In a sign of Libya's gradual re-acceptance by the international community, even US oil companies—back in Libya after decades of absence—have put up banners in the streets to congratulate Kadhafi and the people. *AFP*

BESLAN TRAGEDY REMEMBERED
A boy pours water on the grave of his brother Albert Adyrkhayev, who was killed in last year's Beslan hostage crisis, in a cemetery in Beslan Aug. 31. Beslan's bereaved mothers have told Russian President Vladimir Putin he was to blame for the death of their children and that unless lessons are learned from official blundering, the tragedy could be repeated. REUTERS

Migrating birds may spread avian flu in Europe, UN says

ROME—Migrating birds pose a serious risk of spreading avian flu around the world, including into Western Europe, the United Nations food agency said on Wednesday, rekindling fears that European experts moved to quash last week.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) told a news conference that parts of Eastern Europe, Africa and South Asia were at risk of being infected by the virus in the near term.

Western Europe could face such a risk next year, it said.

"Now that the winter is coming the risk is expanding rather fast into areas of Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa," said Samuel Jutzi, head of animal protection and health at the Rome-based FAO.

Bird flu has killed more than 60 people in Southeast Asia and forced the slaughter of millions of fowl since the outbreak began in 2003. The H5N1 strain, which is potentially dangerous to humans, has been found in six Russian regions and Kazakhstan, causing the deaths of nearly 14,000 fowl.

"There's no reason whatever to believe that this geographic expansion will finish in Kazakhstan," Jutzi said. South Asia was also a region at risk, he added.

The spread into Central Asia and towards Eastern Europe has fueled fears about the mobility of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu. The World Health Organization has warned the virus could trigger a deadly global pandemic if it mutates to become easily passed from one human to another.

At present humans usually contract the illness from close contact with an infected bird.

"The risk of a human pandemic can be drastically reduced, if not avoided, by action if countries and international organizations are decisive enough in fighting the virus at its source—in the animals," Jutzi said.

Some 50 countries, including France, have so far set up national plans to prevent the spread of the H5N1 strain.

French President Jacques Chirac called on Wednesday for urgent coordinated action to combat the spread of bird flu and offered technical assistance to other countries in their fight against the deadly virus.

On Tuesday Poland called on the European Union to help Russia stop the spread of the virus.

"Poland wants the EU to talk with Russia about how the whole EU can help Russia—including financial assistance—to prevent the spread of bird flu on its territory," Polish Interior Minister Ryszard Kalisz told a news conference. *Reuters*

Another Vietnamese dies of bird flu

HANOI—A resident of Vietnam's capital has died of bird flu in the first such fatality for a month, a medical official said Thursday, citing initial tests.

"These tests have shown that the 58-year-old patient from Soc Son district (of Hanoi) was positive to the H5 virus," said Nguyen Tran Hien, director of the Institute of Epidemiology in Hanoi.

If confirmed, medical experts say, it will almost certainly be the H5N1 virus, which will have killed 43 people in Vietnam including the latest case.

"The man died on Aug. 24 in a hospital in the capital but we need to conduct more tests to determine the N1 element," Hien said.

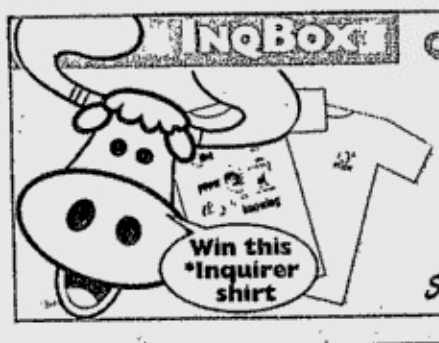
Peter Horby, epidemiologist with the World Health Organization in Vietnam, said: "The only H5 we know of that's circulating in Vietnam is H5N1."

Vietnamese authorities had yet to inform the WHO of the latest case, he said.

"If the laboratory results are correct—as of now we have no information—it's almost certainly H5N1," he said.

The last human fatality from bird flu Vietnam was on July 31 in the southern economic capital, Ho Chi Minh City.

Vietnam's vice minister of health, Trinh Quan Huan, said Thursday that the risk of bird flu passing from poultry to humans was high and the situation could worsen in the coming cooler months. *AFP*



Question of the Week

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1M join Japan 'big one' drill

TOKYO—Helicopters rushed mock victims to hospitals and firefighters raced up ladders to rescue "survivors" from tall buildings Thursday in disaster drills across Japan to prepare for a killer earthquake.

The massive exercises were the center of Japan's annual marking of the date in 1923 when a massive quake wrecked the Tokyo region, killing more than 140,000 people and setting fires that left much of the capital in smoking ruins.

The exercises came as officials are strengthening preparations in case of a dreaded "big one" hitting Tokyo and its surrounding area—home to about one-fourth of Japan's population. Tokyo has a 90 percent chance of being hit by a major quake over the next 50 years, officials say.

About 1 million people were involved in the drills nationwide, officials said. *AP*

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GOLDEN FISH CAKES

1/4 kg	galunggong, steamed and flaked	1/2 cup	all-purpose flour
1/3 cup	bagulo beans, diced finely	1 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
1/3 cup	carrot, grated	1/2 tsp	salt
1/3 cup	squash, boiled and mashed	1 tsp	ground pepper
2 Tbsp	spring onions, finely chopped	1/4 cup	cooking oil
2 pcs	eggs, beaten		**Dipping Sauce:**
		1 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
		1 clove	garlic, minced
		1 Tbsp	sugar
		1 Tbsp	calamansi juice

Procedure:
1. Combine the flaked galunggong, bagulo beans, carrot, squash, spring onions, one beaten egg, 1/4 cup flour, **Silver Swan soy sauce**, salt and pepper. Mix well.
2. Form flat cakes with the galunggong mixture in the desired size and thickness.
3. Dredge with flour. Using a ladle, dip formed cake in the beaten egg and deep fry over medium heat. Cover.
4. Cook until color turns golden yellow. Serve with dipping sauce mixture of **Silver Swan soy sauce**, minced garlic, sugar and calamansi juice. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
19	34	41	8	16	32	13	78	12	25	63	11

Two pieces of Golden Fish Cake provide more than 75% of the recommended nutrient intake of Vitamin A. It is also rich in protein and niacin.

WHITE SPAGHETTI SALAD

100 g	spaghetti, cut in half, cooked per package directions	1 Tbsp	white onion, minced
		1/4 cup	grated cheese
		2 Tbsp	**Silver Swan sukang puti**
1 cup	flaked boiled chicken	1 tsp	salt
1 pc	(100g) singkamas, cut into strips	1/2 tsp	white pepper
		2 tsp	white sugar
1 pc	small cucumber, sliced into fine strips.	1/2 cup	mayonnaise
		1 pc	hard boiled egg, sliced
2 Tbsp	celery stalk, chopped finely		a sprig of parsley

Procedure:
1. Combine spaghetti noodles, flaked chicken, singkamas, cucumber, celery, onion and cheese.
2. Combine **Silver Swan sukang puti**, salt, white pepper and sugar. Add to spaghetti mixture. Mix well.
3. Fold in mayonnaise to the spaghetti mixture. Blend until all ingredients are well coated.
4. Chill.
5. Garnish with sliced egg and parsley before serving. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
24	21	55	9	21	32	11	21	16	21	46	6

Each serving provides more than half of the recommended nutrient intake for carbohydrates. It is also rich in phosphorus and niacin.

*Based on July 1, 2005 prices

Watch out! NEW RECIPES September 9

Developed for SILVER SWAN under the supervision of Ma. Veritas F. Luna, Ph.D. of the College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines

Philamlife unveils the most flexible life insurance plan in the market

Philamlife, the largest and most diversified life insurance company in the country, recently launched its newest product, QuantumFlex.

QuantumFlex is a whole life plan that earns dividends. By definition, a whole life plan provides the insured individual coverage for life. Generally, whole life plans are payable for life, but not QuantumFlex. It has four fixed limited payment options: 3 years to pay, 5 years, 10 years and 15 years. These 4 paying period options are guaranteed not to change.

Moreover, QuantumFlex insurance coverage DOUBLES on the third year at NO EXTRA COST. For example, a QuantumFlex plan of P200,000 coverage on the first year doubles to P400,000 on the third year. Depending on the individual's paying capacity, he or she can choose to pay his QuantumFlex premiums in as short as 3 years or spread out over 15 years.

Thus, QuantumFlex is perfect for those who want the flexibility and freedom to choose their ideal payment option. Persons like high net worth individuals and OFWs can pick the 3-year option for the fastest way to get covered. OFWs, in particular, might find this option the most attractive, since their contracts are usually good for three years.

Executives and entrepreneurs can choose to go with the more moderate 5-year period, which is neither too short nor too long. Professionals like doctors might want to go with the 10-year payment period, since they are almost guaranteed of a steady stream of earnings in the years to come.

Meanwhile, career government employees, teachers and most rank and file employees will find QuantumFlex's 15-year option the most affordable, since their payments will be spread out over a longer period of time. Essentially, no matter what a person's career or profession is, there is a QuantumFlex plan that will appeal to him.

QuantumFlex is available in both peso and dollar denominations and can be tailored to fit a person's different financial requirements. Its dividends and optional benefits can help provide for one's protection, health, education or retirement needs. QuantumFlex can likewise offer comprehensive accident coverage up to age 72, replacement income when one is confined in a hospital, and disability income.

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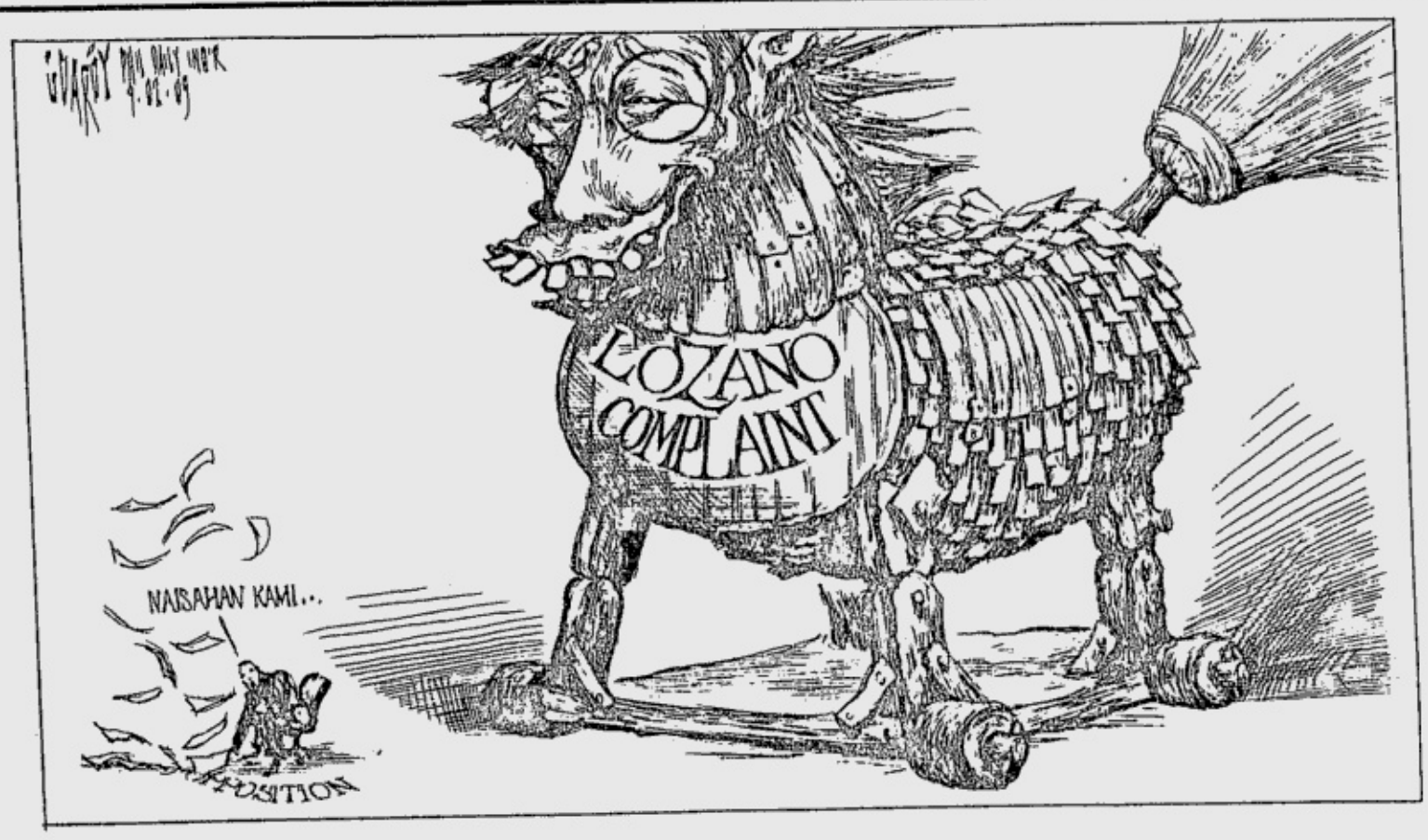

What price victory?

EDITORIAL

THE GREEK general Pyrrhus defeated the Romans at the battle of Asculum, losing many friends, soldiers and equipment in the process. He replied to congratulations with the famous phrase, "Another such victory and we are ruined!" His rejoinder gave the world the idea of a Pyrrhic victory: one secured at such cost as to be inglorious and even tragic.

We do not know if it was with such a classical allusion in mind that Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin issued this warning to his peers: throwing out the amended impeachment complaints was like "poisoning the tigers in the cage, only to send out a mouse to face the gladiators in the arena, except now, we are even going to strangle the mouse."

The tiger was the amended Lozano complaint, and the mouse, the original Lozano complaint. The tiger was killed on Tuesday. By a vote of 50 in favor of killing the original Lozano complaint, 4 against, and 1 abstention, the administration majority and its allies in the House ganged up on the mouse on Wednesday night and stomped it to death.

Earlier that day, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio made themselves visible on the floor of the House. And Claudio's ear was glued to a cell phone much of the time, a reminder of who was really calling the shots in the proceedings.

The gangland-style killing of the original Lozano complaint occurred despite attempts, feeble though they might have been, to try to at least spread the responsibility for the mouse's doom among all the members of the House in plenary. Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula and Locsin both argued that a better course of action would have been to take from the amended complaint the items that serve to fortify and clarify the allegations made in the original Lozano complaint. Such a course of action would have been more in keeping with the House's self-proclaimed tradition of compromise. Instead, their recommendations were ignored.

Ignored as well were Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla's at times rambling warnings that to use brute force now would only guarantee a second round of impeachment attempts in a year's time, and the arguments of other representatives questioning the tactic of using prejudicial questions to clear the path for the mouse's assassination.

The result is that on Monday, all that the members of the House will be asked to do in plenary is to affix their signatures, by way of their votes, to the mouse's death certificate. To paraphrase a familiar old saying, the House has labored, only to bring forth a mouse—and the mouse was squashed on arrival.

It is true that the House has always been known for its subservience to the executive department. But officially existing as the lower half of an independent branch of government, the House does not need to be seen to be so eager to please the President. For the impeachment hearings are about more than giving the President a gift for her trip to the United Nations; they are about giving the people a chance to see their representatives demonstrating their capability to act responsibly.

Democracy is, indeed, about the rule of the majority, but democratic government is also about preventing overwhelming numbers from exhibiting tyrannical behavior toward not only the minority but also its processes. That is why there are debates, and why contending sides are required to ventilate their views. The true nature of the impeachment proceedings in retrospect can be judged not according to the frustrating, often nonsensical behavior of both sides while they remained engaged in committee. It was demonstrated by the lack of thought and due diligence of the proceedings after the debate was reduced to the majority and the very few within its ranks who persisted in displaying independence of thought. In mere minutes, highly contentious issues were settled: issues that have divided not just the House, but the country.

Such was the haste of the pro-administration majority members that they could not put off for Thursday what could be decided late into the night on Wednesday. The last time such indecent haste was on full display was during the canvassing for votes for the presidency. And we know the bitter results of that exercise. It widened the rift between the two sides, it reopened still raw political wounds and it added salt to those wounds. The majority may have gained a victory, but at what price?

Let the truth come out

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LIKE a bad telenovela, it looks like the impeachment case will end up hanging. *Bitin.* While the pro-administration congressmen may successfully kill the impeachment complaint, it would not lead to closure.

Did Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo cheat in the last elections or not? The people want the answer to this question. But the De Venecia-Datumanong railroad will leave that unanswered. The people will be denied the truth.

While the House of Representatives' justice committee and the plenary may be able to murder justice, they are wrong if they think that would end GMA's problems. On the contrary, these problems can only worsen. She may remain as "president," but she wouldn't be able to govern. There would be no rest for her and her apologists. Never would the saying, "Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown," be more true. Militants will take to the streets once again. And their number will get progressively bigger. Another people power uprising is likely.

What a life it would be for her. She cannot sleep nights. And she cannot go anywhere without being insulted publicly. Cruel jokes about her will become popular. Is being a lame-duck president worth all that aggravation?

Yet GMA could have avoided all that had she allowed the impeachment complaint to go up to the Senate for trial. After all, what is there to be afraid of if her claim that she won "fair and square" is true? The trial will show that and she would be acquitted. Then there would really be a closure, and she can rest easy until the end of her term in 2010. No need to give way to Fidel V. Ramos and Jose de Venecia in 2007 just so she can stay in Malacañang two more years. She would be a legitimate president; there would be no doubt as to her mandate.

Why did she choose the difficult, rocky road? There can only be one reason: She knows she is guilty and the Senate trial will uncover that. So she and her paid hacks in and out of Congress are doing everything, sparing no expense, to prevent the evidence from coming out.

In fact, that has been the administration tactic from the very beginning: preventing damaging evidence from being presented. It is infuriating to hear administration congressmen repeat over and over: "Why are they presenting these evidence only now? Why did they not present them during the canvassing of votes by Congress?"

As a matter of fact, the opposition tried mightily, but its motions to show the evidence were met with a series of "Noted" reactions and forgotten, and GMA was proclaimed by a captive Congress in the dead of night.

The opposition tried again to show its evidence in the electoral protest of Fernando Poe Jr., but the poor guy died before he could present even one piece of evidence. His widow, Susan Roces, tried again, but the Presidential Electoral Tribunal threw away her petition. The opposition tried again to show its evidence to the House justice committee, but the committee did not even want to hear it. It opted to accept a complaint purposely made weak by a fifth column and hurriedly endorsed by a congressman who has been disowned and expelled by his own party list. Then the justice committee (why is it called "justice"?) nailed the coffin shut by declaring that the complaint filed by Oliver Lozano is not "sufficient in substance."

The opposition will still fight it out in the plenary and try to get the 79 votes needed to send the complaint to the Senate. As of last report, it was only six votes shy of the magic number. Would that the light of the Holy Spirit shine on the consciences of six congressmen and make them add their signatures to the complaint.

After all, endorsing the complaint to the Senate doesn't mean GMA is guilty. That would only be the beginning of the trial, during which both sides would be given the opportunity to present their evidence. If GMA's evidence is more convincing than the prosecution's, she will be declared innocent.

The shameful goings-on in the House the last couple of days put that den of iniquity at its lowest point in Philippine history. Though the heroic efforts of the younger congressmen are something we can be proud of (and we should continue encouraging them), the antics of the older *trapos* make one want to vomit. In biblical days, Moses inflicted a plague on all the first-born of the Egyptians. And God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. Would that all the old incorrigible *trapos* in the House be hit by a similar plague and the House itself crumble down on its members—after all the young congressmen have left.

The murder of the complaints in the House shows very clearly why a parliamentary form of government would be a disaster for us. Parliament, which would be populated by the same congressmen we have now, would be doing the same thing every day. *Kawawa naman ang mga tao.* The lawmakers are supposed to represent the people and they are supposed to obey the wishes of their constituents. Eight out of every 10 Filipinos have already signified that they want GMA to resign or to be impeached. Yet the congressmen are disobeying the wishes of the people and protecting her.

The show at the House has all the markings of a De Venecia production. As part of the deal with De Venecia, the President is already forming a Constitutional Commission to change the Constitution—in spite of surveys showing that the people don't want the Constitution changed and don't want a parliamentary system of government.

What is happening now is worse than martial law. It is a dictatorship disguised as democracy.

Bar exam reforms: Finding meaning in ritual

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

FOREIGN scholars and diplomats have asked me recently: How come Filipinos love to talk like lawyers? It is bad enough that legalese is itself bad English, but they wonder why ordinary citizens, entitled to the "sovereign prerogative of choice," prefer to be shackled in the technical language of the law even when they ponder fundamental moral or political questions.

There is actually a universal explanation: the "layman's fascination with technicality," and it's not limited to law. You visit your doctor, and what used to be a simple*puwing* in your eye is suddenly a "corneal abrasion"; a fraternity neophyte's *pasâ*, suddenly "hematoma"; you get an A-OK in your annual medical, and you say the test results were "unremarkable."

There is a vintage Three Stooges scene. Their jalopy conks out in the middle of the desert, and Larry turns to Moe and says: "I thought you said you could fix this car?" Moe replies: "Sure I'm an expert. If the distributor doesn't distribute and the differential is different, this car will not run!"

But there is also a uniquely Filipino explanation: the traditional hegemony of lawyers in our public life. Just list the former presidents: Quezon, Osmeña, Laurel, Roxas, Quirino, Garcia, Marcos. The nation has turned to law as a "secular religion" because, bereft of a national consensus on much else, for us the law embodies the only provable agreement on how and when government can step into our lives, what Holmes called the "incidence of the public force."

The high priests of that creed are the lawyers, and we select the guardians of the faith through the annual ritual known as the bar examinations. On each of the four Sundays in September, we reenact this rite of passage. This Sunday, 5,758 candidates are expected to take the bar examinations at the De La Salle University's Taft campus, and of these only 20 to 30 percent are expected to pass.

The Constitution gives the Supreme Court the sole power to admit lawyers into the profession. Each year, the Court designates one of its justices to chair the bar exam committee, and he then appoints a bar examiner for each of the eight subjects in the exam. The examiners submit their draft questions to him, and tradition has it that he makes the final call on which questions will be asked. This year, Justice Romeo J. Callejo Sr. chairs the committee of examiners.

The exam is the sole device for quality control for aspiring lawyers. The Court effectively tells the law schools what courses to offer, what laws to teach, what skills to develop among their students.

For example, when the Court's Study Group on Bar Examination Reform proposed to drop Taxation as a bar subject, it was feared that law schools would no longer teach the subject. When I served as a bar examiner in Political Law many years back, I was given strict instructions: Do not ask questions requiring rote-memory. Do not ask for enumerations and definitions. Do not ask objective-type questions; ask essay-type, problem-based questions. Do not look only at the conclusion but give credit to analysis and reasoning. In shaping the bar exams, the Court also shapes the way the law schools will teach their students.

Yet the Study Group has found that the bar exams have also retarded legal education. "[P]aradoxically, the very existence of the examination has stymied in a significant manner legal education. Many if not most law schools have made of passing the Bar Examinations the principal, or even sole objective of legal education. This has without doubt impoverished legal education ...."

Instead of training students to practice law and serve clients, schools train them in what American law schools deride as "bar law"—"short answer questions" based on a simplistic set of facts vastly out of touch with real-life problems that are rarely so neat and tidy.

I have elsewhere discussed the most radical reforms adopted by the Court in July 2004, based on a program drafted by Justice Vicente Mendoza, and to be implemented in the coming years. For the first time, the reforms focus on the sociology of the exams. Because of the historical fixation on the bar exams, the entire system is geared toward plugging all exam leakages and insulating the examiner from undue pressures. The examiner is solitary and ad hoc, his identity shrouded in secrecy until he grades all 5,000 exam booklets over five months. The Mendoza reforms will allow panels of examiners and checkers who can learn from one another, and will safeguard the integrity of the exams through the integrity of these people and scientific ways of grading.

Still, the Court has no choice but to tighten the exams because of laxity and grade inflation in our schools. It performs the winnowing-out function that many law schools have abdicated in exchange for higher enrollment or, characteristically Pinoy, for the goodwill and misplaced thanks of undeserving students. They merely shift to the Court and its bar confidant the role of being the bad guy.

Historically, the 30-percent passing rate in the Philippine bar exams is not too low—Korea's is 2 percent and Japan's 3-5 percent. But there are fundamental differences. Abroad, there are law-related jobs for those who don't make it, and they are not stigmatized. In the Philippines, even the 30 percent who pass may end up under-employed. Moreover, both Korea and Japan have begun reforming their bar examinations: Japan in particular now aims for a 25-percent passing rate and has created new law schools.

As I told our gladiators at the Taft Avenue *collosseo*, they who aspire to be "wise in their calling," remember the call: "Strength and honor. At the signal, unleash hell. What we do in life echoes in eternity."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

An empty victory

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE LAST hope of the opposition to revive the impeachment action against President Macapagal-Arroyo, after the three impeachment complaints had been trashed in the House committee on justice, hangs on the slender thread of the ability of the opposition to muster the six critical votes to reach the 79 signatures required for the transmittal of the amended complaint to the Senate for an impeachment trial.

Impeachment proponents have until Monday to deliver the 79 signatures at the House plenary and breathe life back to the amended complaint, which was rejected by the justice committee last Wednesday.

On Monday, the committee will submit a report to the plenary on its decision last Wednesday that only the original complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano on June 27 had complied with the legal requirement of impeachment proceedings. This ruling, in effect, excluded two other complaints—one filed by lawyer Jose Lopez on July 4, and the amended Lozano complaint filed on July 25.

The committee held that the two subsequent complaints breached the constitutional rule that only one impeachment proceeding may be initiated against an official within a year. After disqualifying the two complaints, the committee delivered the blow that killed the first Lozano complaint by voting that the complaint was "sufficient in form," meaning it was properly filed and endorsed, and then declaring it in a second vote to be "grossly" insufficient in substance.

These decisions virtually killed the impeachment action at the first stage of the process and demonstrated capacity of the administration to deploy its resources to mobilize its parliamentary majority to crush attempts to oust the President through the impeachment process.

The defeat did not slam the door completely on the impeachment move. If the opposition can secure the six critical votes by Monday, it can then ask the plenary to overturn the committee's decision, thereby allowing it to revive the amended complaint (its strongest card) and to push for its transmittal to the Senate, bypassing the committee on justice.

But there are two big ifs. The first is whether the opposition can secure the six additional signatures. The second is that it faces fierce resistance in the plenary where the pro-administration members are not expected to give up the advantages of numbers.

The strangling of the complaints in the administration-dominated House committee has given rise to accusations that the administration has undermined the impeachment process and was not allowing it to reach the stage of a Senate trial where the allegations that the President rigged the 2004 elections and committed other serious offenses could be proved or disproved in a proper forum through due process of law.

The virtual death of the complaints in the committee is not without dire political consequences to the President. The quashing of the complaints is an empty victory for the administration. It merely demonstrated that the administration has the capacity to deploy the advantages of incumbency to save the President from being unseated. Until the President stands trial where she can defend herself and where it can be shown that the accusations are false and do not constitute impeachable offenses, it would be hard for her to regain public confidence and reestablish the legitimacy of her government.

What is at stake in this impeachment action is the credibility of the impeachment process as a mode to remove officials accused of abuse in office. It would have been ideal if the complaint had been transmitted to the Senate, but part of the failure stems from the incompetence of the opposition.

To begin with, the complaints suffered from slipshod preparation. The first Lozano complaint was prepared in a hurry and appeared to have been filed to jump the gun on other impeachment plans. For another thing, the effort was unfocused and the opposition took a carpet-bombing approach that bunched up a wide range of every conceivable offense against the President. When the President's supporters scented the weaknesses of the complaint, they did not lose time in encouraging its hasty initiation, hoping that it would stew in its own fat.

This has given rise to the suspicion that the Lozano complaint was an administration-inspired stratagem to push a weak impeachment case. But this suspicion appears to be unwarranted, given Lozano's record for being trigger-happy in initiating impeachment action. As early as 2000, before the crisis broke out over the revelation of the tapes alleging presidential interference in the election process, Lozano had the distinction of filing an impeachment case against Ms Arroyo.

The second fatal error was that, after the opposition groups realized that they had a weak case in the Lozano complaint, they sought to remedy the mistake with the filing of the Lopez complaint and an amended complaint that sought to make up for the weaknesses of the original Lozano complaint. These two subsequent complaints were vulnerable to attacks on constitutional grounds that they violated the constitutional principle against the initiation of multiple impeachment proceedings within a year.

The impeachment proponents are now suffering the consequences of their incompetence. This incompetence led them into a trap of their own making. It would have been better if their preparation had been more competent. Then their chances of moving the complaints past the obstacles in the committee would have been better.

Since events can no longer be reversed, we can only hope that the opposition will get the six critical votes that will send the amended complaint to a Senate trial where the outcome is uncertain and unpredictable.

Boarders, borders

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

TODAY'S column deals with two health issues that are quite different, though both are important, especially for children.

I'll start out with the boarders. Some of you may have guessed what I'm referring to, but let me explain with a little story about a friend of mine, ever prim, ever proper, ever bourgeois, who went through a complete physical check-up some years back as part of the requirements to migrate to the United States. She called me a week after the tests, her voice betraying a mixture of mirth and amusement. "Mike, I can't believe it," she said. "I have worms."

OK, I can hear some of you groaning: "After ruining my breakfast last Wednesday with a column about lice and fleas, now he wants to talk about worms."

But worms are important, almost as much as polio, which is what I'll cover in the "borders" part of today's column.

Sizes and shapes

Worms are all around us (*bulate* in Tagalog). But the next time you find out you have them, you can make your infestation sound more sophisticated by saying, "Hey, I've got helminths."

Worms are even more amazing than lice. They're a huge family with thousands of species and they come in all shapes and sizes. The ones that afflict humans include roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, pinworms, tapeworms. The ones you see most often, wiggling out of the baby's rectum like spaghetti, are the roundworms. Hookworms, whipworms and pinworms are much smaller, so you can't detect them as easily. The hookworms and whipworms are quite vicious, their names telling you how they attach themselves to the intestine's walls. Pinworms are the ones that cause that infernal itching on the rectum. Tapeworms are flat and broad, coming out in segments.

Like lice, Filipino parents tend to take these worms for granted, as almost a normal part of childhood and of life. We joke about their being "boarders," but they're really much more destructive. They're parasites that can cause different kinds of malnutrition, including thinning, wasting and stunting, as well as anemia. They're not a joke, multiplying rather quickly. I've seen children with such heavy infestations that the worms crawl out from several body openings.

Heavy infestations affect the liver, which leads to the bloated stomachs you see often among children in urban poor communities. And because so many of the children in these places are pot-bellied, parents see the worms as normal.

National losses

Someone should try to compute how much these worms cost the economy in terms of cavans of rice, kilos of vegetables, fish and meat that the worms consume. Think of the costs of treatment. There are other hidden costs we often miss: For example, when you visit many public schools, you'll notice the children seem to be so much more behaved than those in private schools. Look closely and you'll see they're actually suffering from a combination of hunger and intestinal parasitism. If they're well behaved, it's because they're too weak to be boisterous. But these quiet kids actually cost the nation: with the worms sapping the kids' energies, you can't expect them to learn too much in school.

Most worm infestations can be prevented with hygiene, although, as shown by my prim and proper friend's case, this is easier said than done. The tapeworms come from eating raw or half-cooked meat, where the tapeworms cysts may be present.

Once infected, you have to treat it with medicines. We're going to need more active campaigns to convince parents that it's actually cost-effective to treat worm infestations. Just talk about how all the expenditures on the kids' milk and food go to waste because of the boarders.

Typical medicines include pyrantel and mebendazole, which are rather old drugs but I haven't been able to find anyone producing generic versions. No wonder so many Filipino parents don't bother to deworm themselves and their kids: the branded products are outrageously expensive.

The Department of Health has endorsed one herbal remedy: *niyog-niyogan* seeds. But I'm not really sure how effective these are. *Niyog-niyogan* is also known by its fancy name Rangoon creeper. The plant produces beautiful flowers which are scented at night. The small seeds look like the *balimbing* fruit, and taste a bit like coconut, thus its name *niyog-niyogan*.

Polio

Now to another important child health issue: polio. It's encouraging to hear that the DOH is intensifying its polio vaccination campaign. Actually, oral polio vaccine (OPV) has been available in government health centers for several years now, but many parents don't avail themselves of these vaccines, which are available free, or with a voluntary donation.

The current anti-polio campaign comes on the heels of an outbreak in Indonesia. In April, Indonesia reported its first case in 10 years. Since then, there have been more than 250 cases, leading the World Health Organization (WHO) to sound the alarm. The WHO had hoped to declare polio eradicated globally, but the outbreak in Indonesia means the disease is still here to stay. Worse, there are fears that the cases in Indonesia could spread to neighboring countries, including the Philippines, and eventually spark outbreaks in different parts of the world.

The new polio outbreak shows how our borderless world can create public health problems. There are suspicions that the first polio case in Indonesia may have been brought in by someone returning from the hajj, the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. Another theory is that it may have been brought in by migrant workers. Some are suspicious that it may have been introduced from Nigeria.

Polio vaccinations in Nigeria have stopped since 2003 because radical Muslim clerics there spread rumors that the vaccines were part of a US plot. There's another aspect of globalization: religious fanatics have a way of sharing these rumors. Remember our own problems in 1995 when anti-family planning groups spread word that tetanus vaccines were causing abortions in our women? That year the tetanus vaccination rates dropped, together with childhood immunizations because mothers were avoiding health centers.

The Indonesians, who have launched a massive vaccination campaign, also have to deal with the rumor mills. This time around, the rumor going around is that the vaccines are prepared from monkey kidney cells and are therefore religiously prohibited.

As its name implies, OPV is administered by mouth so there's less of the fear factor in our injections-phobic country. The problem though is that you need three doses of OPV and many parents forget to get the follow-up doses. So make sure you check your records. We fear SARS and avian flu but forget that polio—which can be debilitating, if not fatal—is a serious public health threat as well.

Don't blame us!

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ANC, the ABS-CBN News Channel, has been airing a public service ad, sponsored by Kilos Bayan, on the current national situation. Dramatic photos of events in recent history, particularly the various street protests that have become almost a seasonal ritual in this country, are paired with this message: "We've changed constitutions, leaders and forms of government. But has anything really changed? Perhaps what's needed is a change in us."

When I first spotted the ad (it's also been airing in the late evening hours on Channel 2), I thought it made for a rather dramatic statement and gives us Filipinos some compelling food for thought.

But in the last few days, given the events at the House of Representatives, that ad just sticks in my craw. Is it saying that if only we would change ourselves individually then we can expect to end up with a better country and society? Sure, nobody's perfect, Filipinos included, but do the ad makers really believe that if by some magic we transform into a nation of saints, our government and political system would likewise magically be transformed into a true democracy?

We can all individually undergo a change of heart, a cleansing of the soul, but if we continue to elect public officials of the same mold as the oafs we saw (and heard) in action at the House of Representatives during the committee on justice hearings, then nothing will change. Chances are, in fact, that the quality of our politics and politicians will further deteriorate, since a nation of saints can hardly be expected to rise up in protest to denounce shenanigans and crooks. If all we end up doing is praying for the reform of the morally challenged in government, the scoundrels can simply sigh mea culpa, then beat their breasts with one hand even as the other hand dips into the nation's coffers.

* * *

SURE, there's no denying that we have time and again taken to the streets to air our anger and frustration, and have indeed, as Kilos Bayan notes, managed to bring down administrations, replace leaders and even tinker with our political systems. But the failure of these efforts to bring about any dramatic or even just permanent change for the better is not because we are at the personal level weak or inadequate. We are flawed individuals, but collectively, given a common cause and inspiration, Filipinos have managed to pull off grand moments in history.

If failure is to be attributed to anybody, then assign the blame to our leaders who have squandered the goodwill and public support they were entrusted with by a gullible public, as well as to the Filipino elite, who manage to co-opt, corrupt and compromise every struggle we have waged against colonial powers, invaders, dictators and dishonest leaders.

If any reason for failure needs to be singled out, then let it be our lack of constancy and vigilance, as well as the expert manipulation of public opinion and public mood by operatives. Blame, too, the "system" that is nothing but a feudal society clothed in democratic garb, a representational democracy that disguises the domination of national policy by elite interests and of the economy by a minority of the population.

* * *

BLAME systems, structures, flawed institutions and that perennial bugaboo of poverty. But please, don't blame us! We feel bad enough as it is, what with rising prices, soaring tuition rates, looming criminality and a leadership that not only fails to inspire but actually makes a virtue of cheating. Don't compound our sense of frustration and helplessness by telling us we need to change first before we see any change taking place at the national level.

On hindsight, I also feel the use of those photos of street demonstrations and scenes from the first Edsa revolt was a direct insult to the valiant struggle waged by everyone who fought Marcos and risked their lives and safety just to take a stand. There is nothing wrong with staking our lives to unseat an immoral government, even if the chances of the next one managing to defy the corrupt ways of politics are poor, at best. My own thinking is, without these seemingly futile protests, we would have ended up in even worse straits.

The Kilos Bayan ad should be aired exclusively at the Batasan, preferably all throughout the committee deliberations and plenary. That's where personal, internal change would be most useful. It also won't hurt to send a DVD to Malacañang, on the remote chance the President watches it and is driven to ask herself what she can do at her level to raise this country out of the muck. Listening to her conscience, and realizing where her determination to stay in office is taking the country would make for a good start.

* * *

ALL "truth seekers" are invited to take part in a Mass and Inter-faith Gathering tonight (Sept. 2) at 7:30 at the Bukluran para sa Katotohanan (Uniting for Truth) at La Salle Greenhills. Among those taking part in the gathering are former President Cory Aquino, Susan Roces, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, several bishops and pro-impeachment legislators.

Rep. Edmund Reyes' call at the Batasan Wednesday rings out loud: "Are there six among you who value truth?" He was, of course, referring to the number of Congress members whose signatures they still need on the impeachment complaint to send it directly to the Senate. But he may well have been asking the same question of all Filipinos. How many of us value truth? How many of us can shake off our doubts, fears, uncertainties enough to realize that the question before us is not "What will happen next?" but "When will we be told the truth?"

Knowing the truth, we will know what to do next.

The ghosts of history in East Asia

COMMENTARY

Antonio Chun-nan Chiang

THIS year marks the centenary of the Russo-Japanese War of 1905, and last Aug. 15, many countries commemorated the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific.

Of course, Japan's military dominance in East Asia, which began with the Russo-Japanese War and led to World War II, is no more. But the ghosts of this history still hangs over in East Asia, with each country struggling to find ways to deal with the past.

China is a benchmark. Over the centuries, Japan and China have taken turns dominating East Asia, and both now seek to assert regional hegemony. Historically, the Korean Peninsula was the playground for this rivalry, but, with North and South Korea appearing to make peace with each other, South Korea is also staking a claim to regional influence.

Resentment over past wrongs buttresses all of these rival claims for influence.

During his visit to the United States in June, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun told President George W. Bush that China had invaded Korea over 100 times in history. His remarks shocked China, which views itself as the victim of invasions (most humiliatingly, by the Japanese) and has forgotten its own history of bullying its neighbors.

Roh also openly criticizes Japan for its cowardice in not facing up to its historic war crimes, saying that it does not deserve a seat on the UN Security Council. Japan long colonized Korea, and during World War II, Koreans were forced to join the Japanese Imperial Army—a situation similar to that of Taiwan. But, whereas the struggle between China and Japan for dominance over Korea was the focal point of the East Asian drama, Taiwan was but a side-show, a mere outpost to the Imperial Qing Dynasty, while Korea was a vassal paying tribute to China.

After defeating both the Qing Dynasty and Russia, Japan not only gained control over the Korean Peninsula but also extended its reach deep into Northeast China. As East Asia's "Big Brother," Japan's Kwantung Army founded Manchukuo, in Northeast China, in 1932. Japan wanted Manchukuo to become what India was to Britain or what Algeria was to France—a crown jewel of the empire—and sent a million immigrants (800,000 of whom died there after post-war Manchukuo was taken over by Russia) while investing huge sums to develop heavy industry.

Japan's Nanjing government in China under Wang Jingwei was like Germany's Vichy government in France under Henri Philippe Pétain. Both men were treated as traitors after the war ended. By contrast, as a result of long colonization, Taiwan and Korea had developed a complex of both resistance and reliance toward their rulers. With only a few exceptions, the local elite was assimilated into the colonial system.

But the outcome was similar throughout the region following Japan's defeat in World War II. Civil war broke out in China, the Korean Peninsula was divided and the other Southeast Asian colonies, with the sole exception of Thailand, resorted to military force to achieve independence.

China has still failed to face up to the history of Manchukuo and its civil war, not to mention opening the secret files concerning Mao Zedong's decision to send almost a million soldiers into the Korean War. South Korea initiated talks with the Japanese government only recently on retrieving the remains of Korean slave workers. More than 20,000 Taiwanese and about the same number of Korean soldiers who died for Imperial Japan are worshipped in Japan's Yasukuni shrine. And recently, some civil groups in both countries started to demand the return of the remains of their countries' soldiers interred at Yasukuni.

Taiwan's delayed re-awakening reflects the early reliance of its nationalist government on protection from the United States and assistance from Japan. Chiang Kaishek had no choice but to return good for evil by abjuring compensation claims on Japan, as well as by secretly arranging for the Kwantung Army's ex-chief of staff to join Taiwan's efforts in confronting the communists. Japan has never apologized for its colonization of Taiwan, and the Taiwanese had no opportunity for historical reflection during 30 years of martial law.

This spring, anti-Japanese demonstrations broke out almost simultaneously in both China and Korea, with both countries seeking to place the memory of Japanese dominance in the service of building a new national identity and strategic position. So we can expect that, like the events in May to mark 60 years since the end of World War II in Europe, Asia's commemoration of the end of the war in the Pacific will expose lingering—and still raw—historical sensitivities. Unlike in Europe, however, historical memory in Asia continues to be wedded to current strategic ambitions.

One hundred years ago, the rise of Japanese military power changed the fate of Asia. Sixty years ago, the demise of Japanese power changed Asia's fate again. Today, as China rises in wealth and power to rival Japan, Asia holds its breath, waiting for the ghosts of history to disappear.

Project Syndicate

Antonio Chun-nan Chiang was deputy secretary general of Taiwan's National Security Council from 2000 to 2004.

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OFWs in the 'front rooms' also deserve recognition

THERE is nothing to be ashamed about domestic work, and our compatriots in the world's kitchens and nurseries have nothing to apologize for. Theirs is honorable and honest work. But isn't it also time we gave recognition to compatriots in the front rooms, in the limelight?

I hope in her column, "A Filipino-American woman in the White House," (PDI, 8/27/05) Rina Jimenez-David doesn't mean to recognize Filipino actors only. I know first hand a lot of Filipinos who deserve recognition not just for being excellent domestic helpers, cooks or nannies. There is a known Filipino orthopedic surgeon here in our area who is well-respected by his peers and patients; his name is Edgar Martirez, M.D.

A second cousin retired as a nurse director in a big hospital in Long Island, New York. Her Filipino husband owns a reputable employment agency in New York. They both graduated in the Philippines. A son of theirs is a captain in the US Air Force and he is in the Pentagon handling highly classified government information. The second son is an accountant; and the youngest is one of the executive vice presidents of Chase Bank. The husband-and-wife team is composed of Renato and Myrna Leon.

I believe my sons, who are still Filipino citizens but immigrants here, also deserve some recognition. My eldest son graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree; he is now gainfully employed as fund accountant at Morgan Stanley. The tuition fees for his graduate studies, which he is taking at Rutgers University, will be paid by his office. He finished his elementary and second year high school at St. James School in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

My second son is in the Dean's List and almost a full scholar (I still have to pay $726 out of his $5,000 per semester tuition fee) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). He is now in his second year college taking up Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

And last but not the least, my husband; he finished his elementary in Balagtas Elementary School, his high school in Arellano High School (both of these schools are public schools; he is a son of a sidewalk vendor selling grilled corn in Bambang, Manila) and his college in University of the East. He is a computer consultant at Vanguard (a big financial institution).

I just hope that these kinds of accomplishments are recognized in our country to serve as inspiration for our countrymen to accomplish or attain other honorable jobs besides being domestic helpers, nannies and cooks which are also very honorable occupations.

—ANNIE CUA,
annie_c08859@yahoo.com

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Australian factor in the Allied efforts

THIS is regarding the news item "Asia marks end of war, but little fanfare in RP." (PDI, 8/16/05)

Typical of news accounts about World War II events in the Philippines, nothing is mentioned about the Australian contribution to the Allied efforts on Philippine territory.

Probably unknown to most Filipinos is that Australian warships and personnel valiantly fought on the Allied side against the Japanese naval forces in the decisive four-day Battle of Leyte in October 1944—a battle that has been acknowledged as the "defining battle of the war in the Pacific." The Allied victory in this epic battle was the turning point of the war.

On Oct. 21, 1944, Trafalgar Day, the Royal Australian Navy contingent—which included, among others, Australia, Shropshire, Quiberon, Gascoyne, HDML1074, Norman and Manoora—made its own mark in naval history when its vessels, Australia and Shropshire, were engaged in the Leyte Gulf by Japanese aircraft.

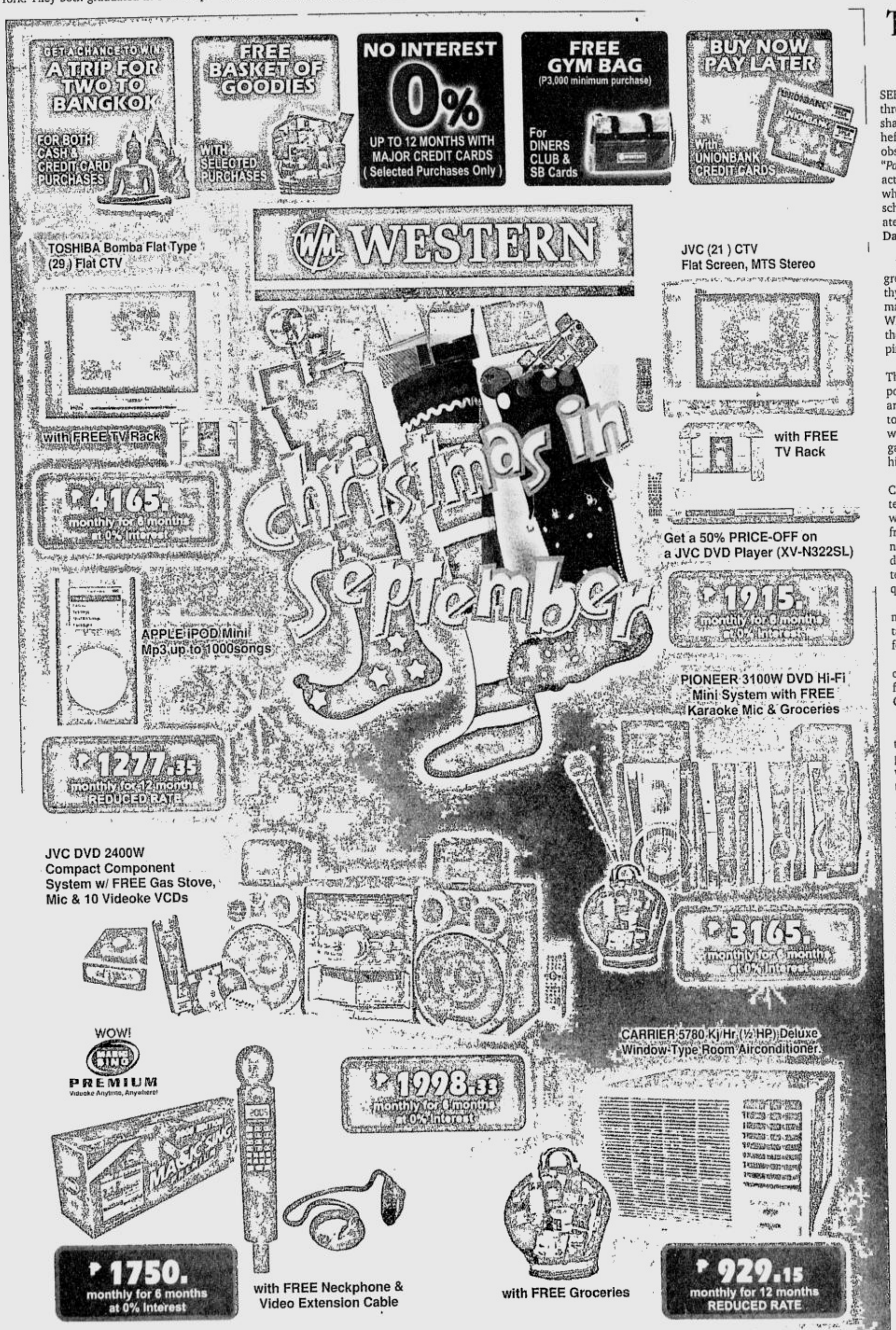
Australia, the Australian flagship, sank after being hit mortally by an enemy plane. Thus, it was the first Allied ship to be hit by a Kamikaze suicide aircraft.

In the action, 30 officers and men were killed or died of wounds and 64 officers and men were wounded, 26 seriously. Captain E.F.V. Dechaineux, who commanded Australia, was himself mortally wounded. Commodore J.A. Collins, who was the top Australian officer, suffered serious burns and wounds.

In annually commemorating the Battle of Leyte Gulf in October, we Filipinos have recognized both American and Japanese forces, the main protagonists of that biggest naval battle ever.

I hope that in the future—for the sake, at least, of fairness and gratitude—we, Filipinos, also give due honor to the Australian men in uniform, who risked their lives in the Philippines in defense of freedom and democracy that both the Australians and Filipinos treasure in common.

—RAUL A. DAZA,
governor, Northern Samar



The opposition walkout

SEEING those senators and congressmen throwing papers inside Congress is truly a shame for us Filipinos. These people who have hefty salaries and have college degrees did not observe proper decorum inside Congress. "*Parang hindi sila nakapag-aral* (They didn't act like educated people)," said my colleague, who is only a high school graduate.—Ricci Santiago, Dammam, KSA

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

Those young congressmen aren't worthy to be called gentlemen. They're bratty prima donnas. They're so *pikon* (thin-skinned). What kind of nation will our children have if these people run our country? Poor Philippines. Poor Congress.

They are the young *balimbing* (turncoats). They only protect their personal interests and power. Some of them (Jaworski and Barbers) are the sons of the losing administration senatorial candidates. Remember that the old Jaworski switched parties when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was installed as President, leaving his dear friend Joseph Estrada.

What legacy did the late Sen. Rene Cayetano leave to his children? While Alan Peter is so vocal in criticizing the President, where is Senator Pia? We have never heard from her. She is protecting her position as a newly elected senator. Switching parties or endorsing impeachment might impact on her term in the Senate. Where is she? Why is she so quiet? Please speak up, Ms Pia.

Gilbert Remulla joined the pro-impeachment team because the President seemed to take a neutral position on the Maliksi-Remulla feud in Cavite.

What principles do they have? Nothing clear. Did they ever do something for the poor, for the country?—Georgina Lopez, Studio City, CA

* * *

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has won her battle against those who want her to be impeached. The next logical question is, will she win the war? Is she going to last her full term till 2010?

What is apparent in the latest "show" is Gloria's political strength and her opponents' weakness. She was able to marshal her forces without doing it so blatantly. There were impeachment complaints. There were congressional deliberations and the complaint was found sufficient in form (whatever that means). And there was the inevitable quashing of the complaint for being insufficient in substance. What a show!

For those who care, this was a very badly scripted show! And for those who don't care, they continue to be so. What else can they do? There will definitely be street protests, a lot of noise, but I'm betting my bottom peso that nothing will happen. There's just not enough support from the streets.

Sure, not many people like Gloria to continue being President but there are far fewer who really want her to be overthrown. I mean, there are not enough people willing to put into action what they feel and say. There is not enough reason to go back to the streets.

What can push enough people to really ask for Gloria's head like what happened to Joseph Estrada in 1986? Maybe when people are really hungry and there is no relief in sight. Maybe when people's sensitivities are truly violated. There is nothing out there, at the moment, that can move throngs to demand Gloria's ouster. What a rotten situation we are in!—Jon Mariano, Wanchai, Hong Kong

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E. Visayas Bayan chair gunned down

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan on Thursday took over as chief of the Philippine Army's 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon.

However, the murder of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) chair in Eastern Visayas marked his departure from his previous command. On the other hand, statements of protests and demands to make him account for alleged human rights violations greeted his arrival in Central Luzon.

Lawyer Norman Bocar, Bayan Eastern Visayas chair, was gunned down in Borongan, Eastern Samar on Thursday, according to Bayan-Central Luzon chair Roman Polintan who pointed to Palparan as the culprit.

"He's not welcome here," Polintan said of the general whom he called the "butcher of Mindoro and the Visayas."

Palparan's new assignment, according to the Bayan leader, "signaled a new round of summary executions, disappearances, illegal arrest and searches, and raids in villages" in Central Luzon where 13 of the group's leaders and members were killed while five others went missing since January this year.

"It is not enough that he's removed from Eastern Visayas and transferred here. He should be charged, punished for the many crimes he has committed," Polintan said.

The Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya also decried Palparan's transfer to the 7th ID.

In a phone interview after brief turnover rites at the Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Thursday, Palparan said he "had nothing to do" with Bocar's death.

"I left Eastern Visayas six days ago. Those people have their own enemies. I have become a very convenient target for their blaming because I'm very known as an anti-insurgency operator of the government," he told the INQUIRER.

He urged an investigation, though, to clear the military.

Of the hostility of leftist groups in Central Luzon, Palparan said: "Their interests are suspicious. They don't own the region."

Bocar had just stepped out of a meeting in Borongan when two armed men on a motorcycle shot him several times, hitting him in the nape.

Bocar is a tourism officer of the provincial government and regional chair of Bayan Muna. A Bayan statement said from February to May this year, activists in the region recorded an average of 76 cases of human rights violations by the military per month, or more than two cases per day. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Cyrain Cabueñas and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau with AP report*

Licuanan's tough work habits recalled by staffer at SBMA

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

LICUANAN

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Francisco Licuanan III is heavily missed at the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (Scad).

Since he resigned on Aug. 26, the "very professional man, the very exacting boss" has been pined for, said Felipe Neri, Licuanan's assistant and the interim Scad administrator.

"The last wish he expressed was for us to continue with the programs," Neri said on Wednesday.

He represented Licuanan in the meeting of the Bases Conversion Development Authority officials with Pampanga leaders.

All that Licuanan wanted was for the Scad to stick to its mission of developing the Subic-Clark growth corridor by integrating and calibrating efforts to promote it as the country's platform in its bid to become Asia's best logistics and services hub, Neri said.

Licuanan's departure, he said, did not come as a big surprise. He met his staff to tell them of his plan.

Neri said Licuanan called the meeting after he discussed with President Macapagal-Arroyo his plan to leave the Scad and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority where he is the concurrent chair.

Licuanan, former president of the Ayala Land Inc. and several other Ayala family-owned companies, accepted both posts in August 2004. Ms Arroyo announced his joining her administration in September that year.

The President, in past interviews with reporters in Clark, said she did not have a hard time convincing Licuanan to help her attain her vision for Subic and Clark, which are in her 10-point agenda.

Ms Arroyo formed the Scad office through Executive Order 365.

"He (Licuanan) had high hopes that he would be able to do the job well," Neri said. He said Licuanan was hardworking. "I should know because I worked with him closely."

Neri said Licuanan could do much more for government.

Mayors in areas near the Clark Special Economic Zone on Wednesday endorsed Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for Central Luzon, to replace Licuanan as chair and administrator of the SBMA.

Mayors Marino Morales of Mabalacat, Carmelo Lazatin of Angeles City, Exequiel Gamboa of Porac in Pampanga; Reynaldo Catacutan of Capas and Florante Cojuangco of Bamban in Tarlac made the endorsement in a two-page resolution.

The Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila) has also endorsed Diaz in a separate resolution.

GMA endorses resolution on ecozone tax exemption

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—President Macapagal-Arroyo has certified to both chambers of Congress the "necessity of the immediate enactment" of a resolution guaranteeing tax exemptions to firms in former American bases that were turned into economic zones in Central and Northern Luzon.

She lent support to Joint Resolution No. 9 as the Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila), representing more than 350 companies here, lobbied for legislative action on the heels of two Supreme Court decisions that nullified the fiscal incentives in Clark in Pampanga and Tarlac, Camp John Hay in Baguio City, and Poro Point in La Union.

The proposed corrective measure was filed by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in May.

Ms Arroyo told Senate President Franklin Drilon and De Venecia that the approval of the resolution would "address the urgent need to prevent the loss of huge investments in the country."

The measure, according to the President, would "assure the anxious investors of the Clark Special Economic Zone that incentives already granted would be fully respected."

Ms Arroyo was senator when the Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992 (Republic Act 7227) was enacted.

However, the Supreme Court found a flaw in the law, saying in its July 29 ruling that RA 7227 only expressly provides for the grant of incentives to the Subic Bay Freeport in Bataan, Zambales and Olongapo City.

"It fails to make any similar grant in favor of other economic zones, including the Clark zone," the court said, acting on the case filed by the Coconut Oil Refiners Association, Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and Federation of Free Farmers.

The Supreme Court reached the same decision in the case of Camp John Hay in October 2003.

The Cila on Thursday greeted the President's support with optimism, hoping that through it local and foreign investors would regain their privileges that lured them to do business here.

Calling the situation critical, Cila said in a statement signed by its 11 officials that aggregate investments of P19 billion, levies and taxes worth P800 million annually and more than 34,000 workers were at stake.

Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity
1994
11th Annual Convention & 2nd Postgraduate Course
"NEW HORIZONS IN THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY"
5-6 September 2005 • Westin Philippine Plaza

Obesity Awareness and Prevention Week is here again. This is a reminder that obesity is one of the growing epidemics of our society - but it is preventable and manageable.

Several health hazards and social disabilities co-exist and/or are caused by obesity. Increased mortality is associated with increased body weight. Heart disease, diabetes mellitus, gallbladder disease, high blood pressure and cancer which are the results of obesity also cause the high mortality rate in these individuals. Lipid abnormalities, stroke, venous stasis, pulmonary abnormalities which include obstructive sleep apnea, are the other conditions which accompany obesity. Gout and reproductive abnormalities are common in obese women. Osteoarthritis of the knees and spine occur as well as the risk for endometrial and breast cancer. Colon cancer may be an outcome in obese men.

Social isolation, loss of job mobility, increased absenteeism from work, economic and social discrimination form what are recognized as parts of the psychosocial dysfunctions of obesity.

Indeed, obesity wroughts havoc on the individual and ultimately on society. We again call on all to heed the dangers of obesity and rise to this call to arms to fight this menace. As they say, we can do it!

AUGUSTO D. LITONJUA, MD
Overall Chairman - 2005 Annual Convention
& President, PASOO

The rising occurence of obesity in the world's population has become a major health concern today. Obesity stem from the modern lifestyle and mass consumerism in our society today. Its health complications are massive and has spawned global campaigns for awareness about the serious threat to public health. The Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity joins with the international societies in the fight against "globesity." We must have access to research and studies which will equip us on how to combat this chronic condition and its complications. This year, the organizers of both the 2nd Postgraduate course and the 11th Annual Convention cordially invite every one to hear the "New Horizons in the Treatment of Obesity." Invited local experts in the field of obesity will discuss the new and the old concerns regarding this problem on September 5 and 6, 2005 at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

Hope to see you all!

ELIZABETH PAZ-PACHECO, MD
Course Director
2nd Postgraduate Course
& Secretary, PASOO

ROSA ALLYN G. SY, MD
Chair - Scientific Committee
2005 Annual Convention
& Treasurer, PASOO

On behalf of the Board of Regents of the entire membership, congratulations to the Officers and Members of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity on the occasion of your 2nd Postgraduate Course and 11th Annual Convention on 5-6 September 2005 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The management of obesity is a real growing concern amongst internists, specialists, family physicians, general practitioners and even among dieticians and with the comprehensive program that your Scientific Committee has prepared, the participants are assured of an exhilarating educational and clinical experience during this convention.

We wish you success in your annual convention and in all your future endeavors in the years to come.

01 September 2005, Pasig City

VENANCIO I. GLORIA, M.D., FPCP
President
Philippine College of Physicians

As part of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO) Annual Convention and Post Graduate Course, a Fitness Walk is always planned to increase the public's awareness of the importance of physical activity. This year's theme "Lets Walk Together" was coined to urge everyone to participate in this fitness endeavor. It's free for the public so please join us in this fun event on September 4, 2005 @ 5:30 am. Immediately after the walk, a 7 o'clock am mass will follow.

Come One Come All!

SANIROSE S. ORBETA, MSRD, FADA
Chair - Fitness Walk 2005
& Vice-President, PASOO

•PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES•

2ND POSTGRADUATE COURSE
Day 1 – September 5, 2005 (Monday) / Luzon & Mindanao Ballroom

8:00 – 8:30 - National Anthem
- Invocation
- Welcome - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD, President, PASOO
- Inspirational Message - David J. Lozada, MD, MPH, Asst. Secretary, Department of Health
- Opening Remarks - Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD – Course Director, 2nd Postgraduate Course

8:30 – 9:45 SYMPOSIUM 1
Chairman Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD
8:30 – 9:15 Obesity: Understanding its Etiology, Physiology and Genetics "Where Does It Come From?" - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD - President, PASOO
9:15 – 9:45 Clinical Guidelines on the Management of Obesity "How Do You Manage Obesity?" - Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD

9:45 – 10:15 Opening of exhibits / Coffee break
10:15 – 11:30 SYMPOSIUM II
Chairman Rodolfo F. Florentino, MD
10:15 – 10:45 Pharmacotherapy in Obesity: Current Uses "Are Pills Necessary In The Management of Obesity?" - Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco MD
10:45 – 11:15 Behavioral Management in Obesity "If It Is Good For Me Why Can't I Do It! How Can I?" - Ma. Teresa Gustilo-Villasor, PhD
11:15 – 11:30 OPEN FORUM
11:30 – 1:00 LUNCH SYMPOSIUM • A. Sanofi-Aventis (Luzon) B. Therapharma (Mindanao)
1:00 – 1:30 Break / Booth visit
1:30 – 4:30 WORKSHOPS (Simultaneous Sessions)

Time / Venue	Speaker	Topic
GROUP 1 / SAMAR Room		
1:30 – 2:15 PM	- Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Evaluation
2:15 – 3:00	- Prof. Herculea P. Callanta	Physical Activity Prescription
3:00 – 3:45	- Sanirose S. Orbeta, MSRD, FADA	Dietary Management and Counselling
3:45 – 4:30	- Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions
Group 2 / PANAY Room		
1:30 – 2:15 PM	- Sioksoan Chan-Cua, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Evaluation
2:15 – 3:00	- Mr. Jonathan Cogas	Physical Activity Prescription
3:00 – 3:45	- Celeste C. Tanchoco, MPH, RND	Dietary Management and Counselling
3:45 – 4:30	- Roberto C. Mirasol, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions
Group 3 / LEYTE Room		
1:30 – 2:15 PM	- Joselynne Adel Ocampo, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Evaluation
2:15 – 3:00	- Mr. Peter Dagme	Physical Activity Prescription
3:00 – 3:45	- Gabriel V. Jasul, Jr., MD	Dietary Management and Counselling
3:45 – 4:30	- Patricia B. Gatbonton, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions
Group 4 / NEGROS Room		
1:30 – 2:15 PM	- Josephine C. Raboca, MD	Assessment of Body Weight: Patient Screening & Evaluation
2:15 – 3:00	- Prof. Mara Elena D. Ulanday	Physical Activity Prescription
3:00 – 3:45	- Ma. Imelda G. Cardino, RND	Dietary Management and Counselling
3:45 – 4:30	- Laura T. Acampado, MD	Use of Pharmacotherapy: Case Discussions

4:30 – 4:45 CLOSING REMARKS
Sanirose S. Orbeta, MSRD, FADA & Vice-President, PASOO

11TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
Day 2 - September 6, 2005 (Tuesday) / Luzon & Mindanao Ballroom

8:30 – 9:00 - National Anthem
Invocation
- Welcome - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD - President, PASOO
- Inspirational Message - Modesto O. Llamas, MD - PMA President
Inspirational Message - Gauden Galea, MD - Representative, WHO
Opening Remarks - Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD, Chairman, Scientific Committee & Treasurer, PASOO

9:00 – 9:40 PLENARY LECTURE 1
Chairman Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD
Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity: Are we at Risk? - Rody G. Sy, MD
9:40 – 10:15 Opening of Exhibits / coffee break
10:15 – 11:25 SYMPOSIUM I
Gene-Environment Interactions and Determinants of Overweight & Obesity
Chairman Rosa Allyn G. Sy, MD
10:15 – 10:40 Virus Hypothesis in the Development of Obesity - Gerry H. Tan, MD
10:40 – 11:10 Infant Feeding and Obesity - Celeste C. Tanchoco, MPH, RND
11:10 – 11:25 OPEN FORUM

11:25 – 11:30 Launching of Whiz Kids Workbook
11:30 – 1:30 LUNCH SYMPOSIUM
A. Sanofi-Aventis (Mindanao)
CB 1 Receptor Blockade of the Endocannabinoid System and Management of Metabolic Disorders with Rimonabant - Rody G. Sy, MD
B. Merck (Luzon Ballroom)
FEAR FACTOR: HDL Meeting the Challenges Beyond the Statins and Fibrates - Augusto D. Litonjua, MD

1:30 – 2:00 Break / Booth visit
2:00 – 3:40 SYMPOSIUM II
Lifestyle Intervention in the Treatment of Obesity: What is Effective?
Chairman Ramon F. Abarquez, Jr., MD
2:00 – 2:25 Lifestyle Activity vs. Structured Exercise in Weight Management - Edgar Michael T. Eufemio, MD
2:25 – 2:50 Facilitating Behavior Change: Behavior Strategies that Work - Antonio C. Sison, MD
2:50 – 3:15 INTERACTIVE SESSION
Is Lifestyle Modification Helpful or Not?
Reactors Oscar Tinio, MD - PCOM President; Cora V. Sager, RND - Head Corporate Nutrition, Nestle Philippines

3:15 – 3:40 OPEN FORUM
3:40 – 5:05 SYMPOSIUM II
New Directions in the Management of Obesity
Chairman Roberto C. Mirasol, MD
3:40 – 4:05 Role of GLP 1 and Analogues in the Treatment of Obesity - Ruby T. Go, MD
4:05 – 4:30 Bioenterics Intragastric Balloon (BIB) - Felicisimo V. Agas, Jr., MD
4:30 – 4:55 Psychological Considerations of the Bariatric Patients - Edgardo L. Tolentino, Jr., MD
4:55 – 5:05 OPEN FORUM

5:05 – 5:45 PLENARY LECTURE II
Chairman Ms. Fely Velandria, RND, FNRI Supervising Science Research Specialist & Study Leader, NNHES
Controversy: Anthropometric Indices for the Assessment of Overweight and Obesity - Rodolfo F. Florentino, MD, PhD
5:45 – 6:00 CLOSING REMARKS
- Mrs. Sanirose S. Orbeta, MSRD, FADA, Vice President, PASOO

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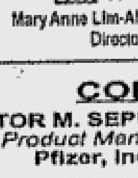
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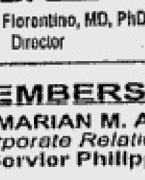
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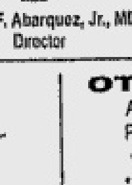
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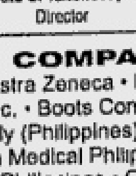
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MINING STRIKE
A group of protesters expresses their support for workers of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. who are on strike for two months now.

Bright prospects seen for ethanol production

BACOLOD CITY—The future of the sugar industry in Negros Occidental is in ethanol.

So said Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, the principal author of House Bill 2583 that seeks to promote the use of ethanol as alternative transport fuel and to establish the National Fuel Ethanol Program for the purpose.

He explained that the future of the sugar industry in the province is in ethanol production because the price of sugar would drop when tariffs on the entry of imported stocks was lifted.

But ethanol, he added, would allow sugar planters to earn much more. Ethanol is an alternative energy source produced from crops such as sugar, corn, grain, sorghum and wheat.

The much-needed ethanol-blended gasoline will make the province a leading producer of ethanol in the next five to six years, he added.

"Negros sugar planters will be the fuel barons of the future," Zubiri told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Tuesday.

He said San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. (SCBI) in northern Negros Occidental is expected to begin producing ethanol by the second half of 2007.

More ethanol plants are expected to be built in the province, he added. "Negros has a capacity for nine ethanol plants," the congressman said.

The SCBI is a joint venture of Bronzeoak Philippines, the National Development Corp. and three groups of sugar planters.

These are the Valmayor Hermanos Inc., Gamboa-Ledesma Hermanos, and the GH Farmworkers Multipurpose Co-op, which signed an agreement to supply 200,000 of the 300,000 tons of sugar needed by SCBI annually.

Zubiri was in Malacañang on Monday to join the launching of the E-10 Program (10 percent ethanol-blended gasoline).

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Solons demand probe of strike in mining firm

MANKAYAN, Benguet—Representatives of three party-list groups filed a resolution at the House of Representatives to ask its committee on labor and employment to investigate the complaints of striking workers at the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. here.

House Resolution 923 was endorsed by Representatives Satur Ocampo, Joel Virador and Teodoro Casiño (Bayan Muna); Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano (Anakpawis); and Liza Maza (Gabriela Women's Party) on Aug. 23.

It said the LCMC management violated provisions of the labor code that afford "full protection to labor and assure the rights of workers to form unions, to collective bargaining and to strike."

The party-list representatives asked the committee to conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation "into the anti-union and anti-labor practices" of LCMC, including "harassment, physical violence, arbitrary arrests and detention" committed against the 1,685 striking workers.

The strike, which started on June 2, was prompted by disagreements over terms of the collective bargaining agreement, benefits and dismissal of 19 officials of the Lepanto Employees Union (LEU) and at least 211 workers who participated in the work stoppage.

Weldy Manlong, LCMC operations manager, said they are open to any investigation that would be led by the lawmakers.

But he said the company would not accept the demands of the workers to reinstate the 19 dismissed union officers.

The dismissed workers could file an illegal dismissal case with the National Labor Relations Commission "so we could still reconsider them," he said.

He said the LCMC has reinstated 10 workers who were earlier dismissed.

Although workers have accepted the proposal of the Department of Labor and Employment to increase wages by P25, P27 and P29 for the three-year CBA, the strike will continue until the company reinstates the 19 union officials and other workers, Ninian Langagan, LEU president, said.

At least 1,000 workers and their supporters from Cordillera provinces staged a rally here on Tuesday to ask the LCMC to resume negotiations with the striking workers. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Palawan execs take China trip

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Eight Palawan mayors and a vice mayor headed for China yesterday to woo Chinese businessmen to invest in the province.

Gov. Joel Reyes led the Palawan delegation, along with his wife Femmes, two department heads, a protocol officer and five board members. Some local businessmen also joined the trip. The trip sparked mixed reactions from Palaweños.

According to Angel Antic, chair of the Palawan Small and Medium Development Council, the trip was untimely for local government officials because the country was in a serious financial crisis.

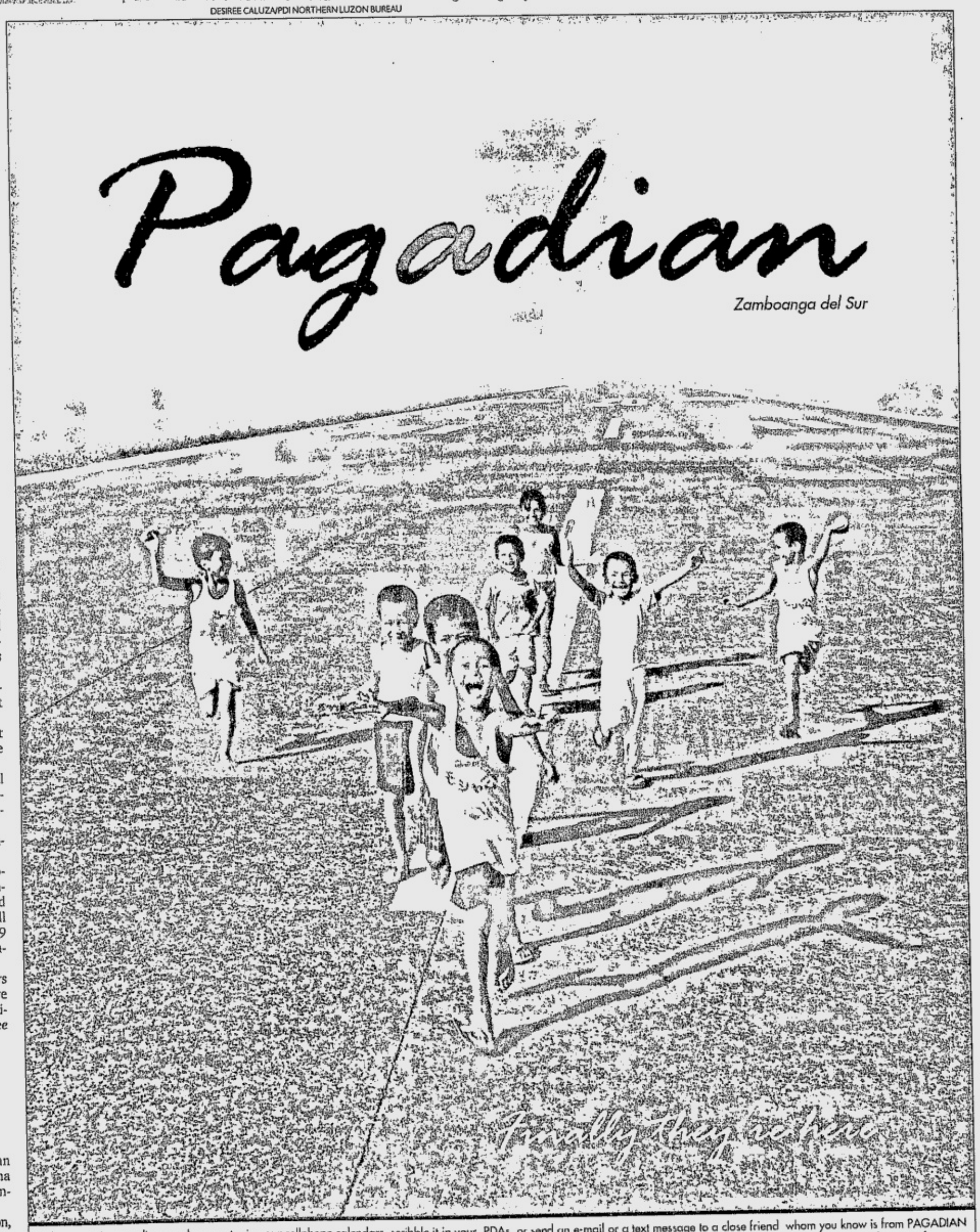
He said there were more things to focus on at this time, although "there is nothing wrong with going abroad."

Former municipal auditor Narciso Bondoc commented over a local radio station that the trip would only be a "junket" for local government officials.

Some said it was a waste of people's money and spending should be prioritized because Palawan had the biggest liabilities in terms of loans for fiscal year 2004, according to a Commission on Audit report.

The province incurred total loans of P924.2 million based on COA's Consolidated Balance Sheet as of Dec. 31, 2004 for the country's 75 provinces, 177 cities and 1,419 municipalities.

But others, especially the supporters of the provincial government, said there was nothing wrong with the trip. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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10 NGOs join hands to help Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu

From page A1

danao conflict.

They called the consortium "Pantabangan BaSulTa." *Pantabangan* means helping each other; BaSulTa is an acronym for Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi.

"We've joined hands to help break the cycle of poverty in Mindanao," said former Agrarian Reform Secretary Ernesto Garilao, now executive director of AIM-Mirant Center. "Thirty years ago, these people were poor. Today, they are still poor."

Deportation sparks idea

Former Ambassador Howard Dee, cochair of Tabang Mindanaw, thought of the idea of gathering 10 NGOs after seeing thousands of Filipinos, virtually all overseas workers from Mindanao, being forcibly deported by the Malaysian police in a renewed crackdown of unwanted aliens in Sabah in sometime in July 2004. These workers were part of some 170,000 undocumented Filipinos who fled to Malaysia for lack of job opportunities in the country.

He requested a meeting with the top brass of 10 NGOs to assess the situation in Mindanao.

They are Tabang Mindanaw, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF), Petron Foundation, Consuelo Foundation, Mirant Philippines Foundation, Philippine Development Assistance Programme, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Philippines, Local Government Support Program (LGSP), and the Asian Institute of Management Mirant Center.

Comprehensive

"What can be done?" Dee posed the question to the officials of the resource-rich, NGOs in the first meeting.

He wanted the 10 groups to put their act together in providing a blueprint for "comprehensive human security and development program" in the three Mindanao provinces.

To find some answers, key managers of the foundations subsequently held series of workshops to identify problems and offer solutions.

Another meeting was held to review the findings of a study on human security and governance in BaSulTa based on a study conducted by the Ateneo Research Center of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University.

Causes of poverty

Based on the study, poverty in the three Mindanao provinces came as result of "historical inequities, legal disenfranchisement, and the prolonged conflict."

Simply put, it means that the three provinces, though rich in natural resources, are poor since the resources are exploited by the Manila-based government and businesses; residents lose their untitled lands to wealthy land grabbers; and the last, the devastation caused by the conflict.

Subsequent meetings and discussions led to the adoption of the Ateneo study, the drawing of an implementation process, and an interim tasking of roles and responsibilities among the members.

In the beginning, Garilao said the various NGOs had to raise certain concerns in order for them to work together effectively.

First, what can be done collaboratively? Second, can they actually work together? Third, can they work with the local institutions in Mindanao? They all said yes to all the questions.

P100-M fund

The 10 NGOs have so far put together P100 million to fund various projects in the three provinces. Five of these projects with an aggregate worth of P26.8 million are now in progress.

These are on water, environment, livelihood, leadership and skills training. The rest of the projects are on health, education, agriculture, peace building and governance training.

"We don't make any distinction whether they are Christians or Muslims, or Lumad or what-have-you," Garilao said of the recipients of the project. "What matters is that they are residents. We will try to help all."

But more than offering monetary assistance, Garilao said, BaSulTa wants the local leaders and institutions to be more responsive to the needs of the community and the residents to be more accountable.

Edsa approach

The consortium's approach, he added, is to allow residents to take "co-ownership" of the identified problems, say, the residents who have no access to drinking water will submit a project proposal to the group which in turn will help them solve the problem and train the residents how to maintain it.

In essence, Garilao said, the program literally means that the spirit of Edsa People Power is going to Mindanao. "We envision vibrant communities in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi enjoying freedom, prosperity, and a culture of peace and respect for the differences and diversity," he added.

The consortium has identified 50 sectoral leaders whom they can work with in each of the three provinces for different projects.

Representatives of the consortium met with the sectoral leaders at the provincial capitol in Jolo, Sulu for a two-day workshop that began last Monday. The leaders were asked to formally write their respective water project proposals that can be sponsored by any or all of the 10 members. The Peace and Equity Foundation funded the workshop.

International donors

Using their individual clout and access to international funding community, the members of the consortium have secured the commitment of donor institutions such as the World Bank, USAID, Japan International Cooperation Agency to attend a meeting with the 150 sectoral leaders of the three provinces on Sept. 22. The meeting will allow the local leaders to sell their projects and get funding support from the foreign donors.

Tabang itself boasts of resource-rich members such as the Benigno Aquino Jr. Foundation, Ayala Foundation, Metrobank, GMA Kapuso Foundation, ABS-CBN Foundation, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, among others.

Dee's cochairs are Ayala's Fernando Zobel de Ayala and INQUIRER's Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez. It has been actively involved in raising funds and livelihood in Mindanao for the last seven years, especially during calamities.

Until 2010

PBSP, AIM Mirant Center and LGSP help train and develop leaders. Consuelo works against child abuse. Mirant is involved in rural electrification. PEF is on livelihood and mircofinancing. WWF works on environment protection.

The consortium committed to the BaSulta project until 2010 and is willing to recruit other NGOs members.

Airline operators air . . .

From page A1

get its wish.

For the Airline Operators Council (AOC), silence is golden and should be particularly welcomed by harried passengers flying in and out of airports.

The group recently broached the idea of turning Naia into a "silent airport."

The AOC is the organization of all international airlines, including Philippine Airlines (PAL) and Cebu Pacific.

"We know some people love it (Christmas carols) but in an airport, you should try to calm the passengers by giving them a peaceful environment," AOC vice chair Santiago Medrana III said.

Relocate rondalla

AOC also wanted the *rondalla*, which plays at the concourse as passengers head toward the immigration area, to be "relocated."

Medrana said flying was stressful to passengers. "Imagine how passengers feel after disembarking from the plane. They'd hear all these noise in an airport."

Global trend

"Silent airports have been the trend in the aviation industry since more than a decade ago, wherein unnecessary noise such as constant paging of flights and passengers, are eliminated," AOC chair Leoncio Nakpil told reporters Wednesday.

Nakpil said the AOC and its counterparts in Southeast Asian countries initiated the "silent airport" campaign after they organized themselves into a regional association.

Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok Airport, Singapore's Changi Airport, the Dubai International Airport, and most European airports are among the "silent airports" in the world, according to Nakpil.

No PA system

He said the AOC would like to adopt the scheme at the Naia Terminal 1. If the project succeeds, it could be adopted in all the country's international airports.

The AOC officials said the group was hoping that the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) would be receptive to the proposal.

In a "silent airport," announcements via the public address system (PA) like those about "missing" passengers, people who have not yet boarded when their flight is already supposed to leave and lost and found items, and other reminders to passengers will also be eliminated, according to Medrana.

He said that in "silent airports," all passengers would be checking their flight details at the Flight Information Display System (FIDS).

Only very important announcements are made over the PA system in a "silent airport," he added.

Visual aids needed

But Miaa General Manager Alfonso Cusi said in a phone interview that the proposal had to be evaluated carefully.

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GMA has won some time but it ain't over yet–FVR

By Fe Zamora

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's fate remains uncertain until the House in a plenary session votes on the impeachment complaints filed against her, according to former President Fidel Ramos.

"There is no clear resolution. That's a big question mark," Ramos said in an impromptu press conference at the government-owned Channel 4 in Quezon City.

"It appears that the majority has won the first round. But let us not forget that there is still a plenary session that could be the final opportunity [for the opposition]," he said.

Ramos, however, pointed out that the situation was not as politically critical for Ms Arroyo as the one on July 8, when a number of Cabinet officials led by then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima quit their posts and called on her to do the same.

"She has won some time," Ramos said, adding that last July 8, it was only "a matter of hours" before "things [would have been] one way or the other."

But he said the President "must not be complacent" because "what she won as a concession in time also has a terminal date."

Ramos said intensified street protests should be expected, and called on authorities to be prepared.

He said, however, that he did not expect to see street protests in the magnitude of Edsa I in 1986 (which toppled Ferdinand Marcos), and Edsa II in 2001 (which deposed Joseph Estrada).

"I am not seeing nationwide outrage," Ramos said, stressing that economic factors, rather than Ms Arroyo's continued stay in Malacañang, were the more compelling reasons for protest.

Ramos, who is credited with "saving" Ms Arroyo from possible ouster on July 8 with his proposed shift in the form of government from presidential to parliamentary, admitted that they had been talking on the phone.

He said he and Ms Arroyo had been discussing relevant issues, but refused to categorically say if she had sought his advice on the impeachment complaints.

Ramos said he was to have seen Ms Arroyo during the Ramon Magsaysay Awards the other day, but she did not show up.

Asked if the President was being incommunicado, Ramos snapped: "She is not incommunicado. She is just saving gas."

Bishop Cruz: President a puzzlement

From page A1

tension will be continuous."

Cruz said that considering the damaging allegations against her, the President should have been allowed to defend herself in an impeachment trial.

Besides, he observed, it was Ms Arroyo herself who had asked that she be given her day in court.

Cruz said pro-Arroyo lawmakers apparently ignored the appeal by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines not to turn the impeachment proceedings into an exercise of political partisanship.

"People may deny the truth but it will remain the truth," he said.

In its July 10 statement, the CBCP said impeachment, along with the formation of a truth commission and Ms Arroyo's outright resignation, was not against the Gospel.

The CBCP in Manila yesterday refused to comment on the result of the impeachment hearings.

Cardinal Vidal

But Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal flew to Manila yesterday morning.

Msgr. Achilles Dakay, media liaison officer of the Cebu Archdiocese, said he did not know the purpose of Vidal's trip but presumed that the latter would be meeting with some Church officials in Manila.

"This is another step that they have to take because of what has happened, especially that the CBCP had strongly endorsed the impeachment process..." Dakay said.

Dakay also said Vidal flew to Manila to deny the rumor that he was having constant meetings with the camp of former President Corazon Aquino.

Another appeal for unity

Malacañang has appealed for unity anew in the wake of the House's dismissal of all three impeachment complaints against the President.

"The President's detractors should know when to throw in the towel so that we can already get on with the real business of the people," Ms Arroyo's spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, said in a statement issued yesterday.

Protest actions

"The political turmoil and the steeply rising prices of oil have inflicted much difficulty on the entire nation. We are confident that the political atmosphere would ease up in due time to enable the nation to refocus on shoring up fiscal stability, searching for energy alternatives and fighting terror," Bunye said.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan announced plans for a rally on Sept. 7 to denounce the conduct of the President's allies in the House.

"We might as well have a people's court to try the [impeachable offenses] committed by Ms Arroyo. We encourage our lawmakers, prosecutors and witnesses to bring their case to the people," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

"They can present the evidence that they were not allowed to show during the impeachment hearings. The Filipino people will [be the] judge," he said.

Reyes challenged the President's allies to present their own case to the people: "Pro-Arroyo lawmakers are also welcome to attend if they want to defend [her]. A people's court is certainly more democratic compared to the sham hearings in Congress," he said.

'Pleased' GMA

But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita described the hearings conducted by the House committee on justice as "a vindication of the rule of the law."

Speaking at the formal opening of the National Peace and Consciousness Month at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, Ermita said Ms Arroyo was "pleased" with the decision of the majority legislators to uphold and then kill the original impeachment complaint filed by Oliver Lozano, effectively junking the amended version of the opposition.

He pointed out, however, that the process was not completely dead because proimpeachment lawmakers could still try to muster 79 votes at the plenary deliberations to send the amended complaint back to the justice committee.

Meanwhile, he said, political leaders should remember to stay within the bounds of legal processes and the Constitution.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said efforts would continue to gather the support of 79 legislators although the opposition's main efforts would focus on building mass support for the ousting of the President.

But Bunye said 79 votes was "a pipe dream.".

And Romulo Macalintal, Ms Arroyo's impeachment lawyer, told reporters: "We believe that the public will welcome [the justice committee's] decision as this will allow us to move on."

Bayan's Reyes warned of sustained protest actions, especially "at this crucial juncture of gathering the last few signatures for the impeachment complaint."

He said the Sept. 7 rally—the venue of which has yet to be finalized—would push through regardless of whether the required number was reached.

The Armed Forces remained on its lowest status ("white alert") yesterday.

But the AFP public information chief, Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, declared: "We will not allow anarchy in the streets. We will not allow mob rule. We're going to ensure peaceful rallies."

The AFP National Capital Region Command had previously deployed troops to support the national police in containing rallies calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

Pascual said, however, that there had so far been no need to raise the alert level, especially in Metro Manila.

He also said that while the AFP was "prepared," it had not monitored renewed "destabilization efforts" in the wake of the Wednesday night dismissal of the impeachment complaints against the President.

"We will follow the rule of law in this political turmoil. We will remain apolitical," Pascual said. *Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Luige A. del Puerto and DJ Yap in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP*

6 candles at 6 p.m.

"RUNNING priest" Robert Reyes yesterday launched "Six at Six," aimed at helping secure six more votes from lawmakers to meet the required 79 in time for the Monday plenary.

"We are urging the Filipino people to light six candles at 6 p.m. every night [outside their homes, schools and offices] until we get six more votes," the activist priest said.

"This is to offer prayer," he added. "We pray that we will find six more lawmakers who are after the truth. This is also a call to hope—to show that hope is not dead, that the [impeachment] process is not dead."

Gloria saw it all . . .

From page A1

an interest because the case is all about her," said Ermita.

Opposition lawmakers said the President had taken a direct hand in the impeachment case, calling congressmen, their friends and allies. She had also invited lawmakers to the Palace to get them on her side.

Malacañang claimed there was nothing wrong with this, saying the Executive branch was expected to keep in constant touch with the legislators.

Ms Arroyo was happy and satisfied at the outcome of the impeachment case, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

For the second straight day though, the President did not make a public appearance.

Rigoberto Tiglao of the Presidential Management Staff defended the last-minute changes in the President's schedule. "The appointments of the President change from day to day and it is not easy to ascertain her schedule until it actually happens," said Tiglao.

Yesterday, the President merely issued media statements that had nothing to do with her case.

Ms Arroyo expressed sympathies to the United States and Iraq for the recent tragedies there—the devastation caused by a powerful hurricane in the US Gulf Coast and the deadly stampede on a bridge in Baghdad.

Back to normal today

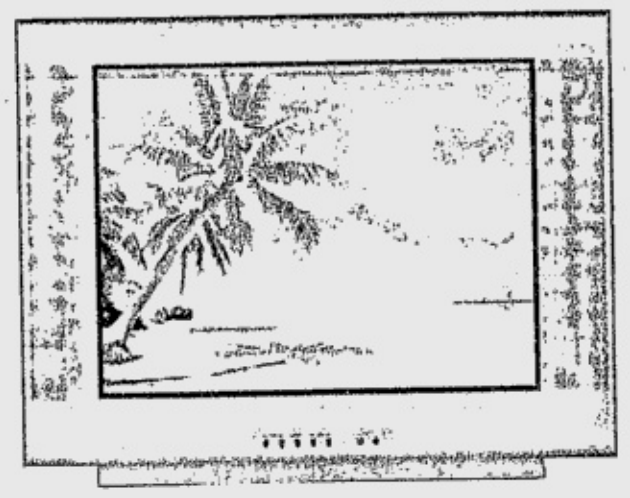
Today, the President is to attend the 60th anniversary of the surrender of World War II Japanese Gen. Yamashita in Kiangan, Ifugao, and proceed to Nueva Ecija to attend the province's 109th anniversary celebration.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio conceded that "given her role and task in governance," he said the President was "rather stoic" on hearing that the impeachment complaint had been junked.

"What's important to her is that she be given as much elbow room as possible to be able to focus on the essential task of governance, especially now that the country has to deal with the energy crisis," Claudio said.

Bunye said the country's problems needed Ms Arroyo's "full and undivided attention."

Zero interest.



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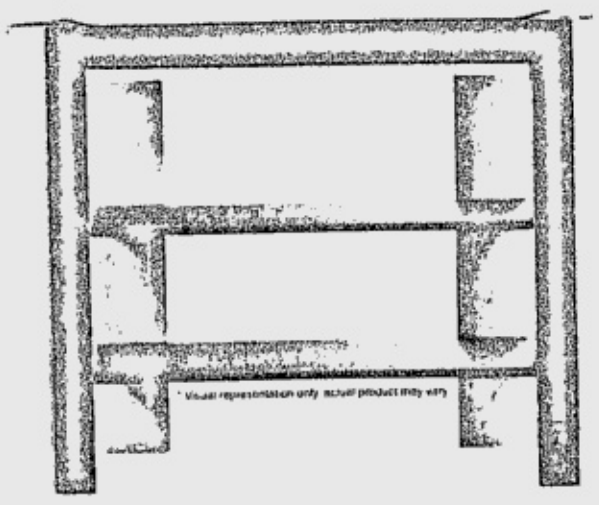

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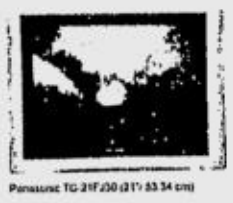
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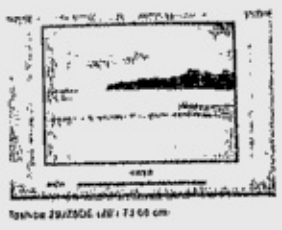
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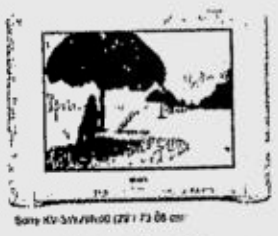
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SC cites Purisima for indirect contempt; sets ₱20,000 fine

By Armand Nocum

THE SUPREME Court found former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima "guilty of indirect contempt of court" and fined him P20,000. Purisima must pay the amount within 10 days after the court's resolution shall have become final.

The high court threw out Purisima's claim that he had been "misquoted" by media when he was reported as having said that President Macapagal-Arroyo had influenced the tribunal to issue a temporary restraining order on the VAT law on July 1 amid growing calls for her to resign.

Purisima along with nine other members of the Cabinet and agency heads resigned on July 8 and demanded that Ms Arroyo do the same.

"If it were true that Purisima felt that the media misconstrued his actions, then he should have immediately rectified it. He should not have waited until the court required him to explain before he denied having made such statements," the decision penned by Associate Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez said.

"Purisima should know that these press releases placed the court into dishonor, disrespect and public contempt, diminished public confidence, promoted distrust in the court and assailed the integrity of its members. The court already took a beating before Purisima made any disclaimer. The damage has been done, so to speak," the court said.

Purisima earlier apologized to the Supreme Court for allegedly making "insinuations" that the President had pressured the high tribunal into issuing a freeze order on the VAT law.

Media reports cited Purisima as saying that the President had expressed an intention to delay the implementation of the VAT law, something that partly drove him and nine other members of the Cabinet to tender their irrevocable resignation.

He said that although he believed the President "wanted to postpone the implementation of the said law, I never claimed or insinuated that (the SC) was influenced or pressured to issue the TRO against its implementation."

Purisima escaped the 6-year imprisonment penalty for indirect contempt.

High court upholds VAT but TRO stays till final ruling

From page A1

ends exemptions on a wide range of goods and services.

The expanded VAT ends tax exemptions on the sale of electricity and oil products; coal, natural gas and indigenous fuels; cotton, cotton seeds and non-food agricultural products; domestic air and sea transport; medical and legal services; works of art and literary works.

The law also raises the corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent for three years. The rate falls to 30 percent in 2010.

"The court, by a majority vote, opted to dismiss all the five petitions and upheld the constitutionality of the law. The law itself is constitutional," Khan said at a press conference.

Objections to some sections

He said several justices decided to declare some sections unconstitutional.

But the Supreme Court spokesperson said these objections did not meet the majority vote of eight, so the "objectionable" provisions stay. "Eight votes are required to declare a particular section unconstitutional," he said.

Because there were objections to some sections, it was inappropriate to call the voting 15-0, but a majority vote, Khan said.

Some economists and traders welcomed the court ruling. "This is positive news for the peso and I would expect a quick test of the 56 per dollar level," said Callum Henderson, head of currency strategy at Standard Chartered in Singapore.

"This tax is one of the key fiscal reforms of the government and so the peso should rally."

Picket

But a militant group assailed the VAT law as it would further jack up the prices of a wide range of goods and services.

Hours before the Supreme Court announced the ruling, members of Lumaban Ka! and Freedom from Debt Coalition picketed the high court.

"It is the expanded VAT that should be killed, not the impeachment process," said FDC vice chair Wilson Fortaleza in a statement.

Higher fares, low taxes

Upon the VAT law's implementation, fares to be collected by the SuperFerry for the Manila-Cebu route would go up from P1,680 to P1,848, and the Manila-Davao route from P2,430 to P2,673, according to a SuperFerry customer service representative.

Philippine Airlines will increase its fare for the Manila-Cebu route from P7,651 (round trip) to P8,416, and the Manila-Davao route from P9,551 to P10,506, according to Rene Soliman, manager for publications of PAL's corporate communications.

The Department of Finance said the expected additional revenues to be generated this year from the VAT law would be lower, and would only be anywhere between P7 billion and P10 billion because of the delay in its implementation.

Had the VAT law been implemented since its supposed effectivity date of July 1, the estimated incremental revenues this year was estimated to be between P28 billion and P32 billion.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said the VAT law would be implemented seven days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation. The DOF will publicize the law as soon as the Supreme Court announces the lifting of the suspension.

Starting 2006, the government expects to generate additional revenues of P86 billion every year. The projected revenues include the impact of the increase of the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting next year.

Cushion

"The VAT law would provide a cushion should there be any setbacks in revenue collection," he told reporters.

The national government has set the budget deficit target for 2005 at P180 billion, but its better-than-expected performance in the first seven months of the year made it confident that the deficit figure for the full year would be lower than the official target.

As of July, the national government's budget deficit stood at only P82.6 billion, or P33.6 billion lower than the programmed P116.2 billion for the seven-month period. This made finance officials surmise that the actual budget deficit for the full year, even without the implementation of the VAT, would only be at P160 billion or lower.

Toward zero budget deficit

Struggling with widespread tax evasion and corruption in the bureaucracy, the Philippines recorded an annual fiscal surplus only four times since 1986 when the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos was toppled by a popular revolt. It recorded surpluses from 1994 to 1997 during the presidency of Fidel Ramos.

Teves said the VAT law could accelerate the attainment of the national government's goal of a zero budget deficit. The President wants to erase the budget deficit by 2010.

Without the VAT, the DOF projected that the national government budget would be balanced by 2008.

The government expects the country's credit rating agencies to reconsider their decision to change their outlook on the Philippines because of the Supreme Court ruling.

Many analysts saw political motives behind the July 1 decision to freeze the tax just hours after it came into effect at a time when President Macapagal-Arroyo was facing the worst crisis of her presidency over electoral fraud allegations.

Ms Arroyo has since shored up her presidency and is on the verge of defeating opposition attempts to impeach her in Congress, but she is still struggling with record low popularity ratings and discontent over surging energy prices.

"All in all this was to some extent anticipated by markets. But sentiment wise, it is good news and welcome, said Claudio Piron, currency strategist at JP Morgan in Singapore.

"The wider issue of Ms Arroyo and the impeachment is still a concern."

Tax mapping

As the DOF prepares for the implementation of the VAT law, it has lined up several administrative measures to ensure that the revenues expected from the tax measure would be collected.

Teves said the DOF was looking at expanding the coverage of the "Tax Mapping" program of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, its attached agency.

Under the Tax Mapping program, revenue personnel are sent to the field to investigate the tax compliance of business establishments, such as checking whether they issue receipts.

The finance chief said the DOF was looking at including households, especially those in posh villages, in the Tax Mapping program.

"If we see that a residence has six cars and that the family is declaring an annual income of only P100,000, then we can suspect that it is evading taxes," Teves said.

But the finance chief said the DOF would have to seek advise from experts on the legality of its plan.

Benchmarking

Teves likewise said the DOF and the BIR would implement an industry benchmarking method to have a good estimate of one's tax liabilities. By industry benchmarking, the DOF and the BIR would set the average income and tax liabilities of companies in a certain industry.

If the tax payments of a company are much lower than the average for that industry, then the company can be investigated for possible tax evasion, he said.

The DOF said it was important that measures to prevent VAT leaks were in place to ensure the government would meet its revenue targets.

Hard-to-tax sector

Teves also said the DOF would study ways to collect proper taxes from jeepney and taxi operators.

Transport operators are considered a hard-to-tax sector because of the difficulty of determining their actual incomes. They are not required to issue receipts. *With a report from Reuters*

Bush: One of worst natural disasters in US history

From page A1

stadium began a slow exodus on Wednesday, as the first of nearly 25,000 refugees left the miserable surroundings of the football stadium and were transported in buses to the Astrodome in Houston, 560 km away.

Conditions in the Superdome had become horrendous: There was no air conditioning, the toilets were backed up, and the stench was so bad that medical workers wore masks as they walked around.

In Mississippi, bodies were starting to pile up at the morgue in hard-hit Harrison County. Forty corpses had been brought to the morgue and officials expected the death toll in the county to climb well above 100.

'Totally wiped out'

Tempers were beginning to flare in the aftermath of the storm. Police said a man fatally shot his sister in the head over a bag of ice in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

President George W. Bush flew over New Orleans and parts of Mississippi's hurricane-blasted coastline in Air Force One. Turning to his aides, he said: "It's totally wiped out . . . It's devastating, it's got to be doubly devastating on the ground."

"We're dealing with one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history," Bush said later in a televised address from the White House, which most victims could not see because power remained out to 1 million Gulf Coast residents.

The federal government dispatched helicopters, warships and elite SEAL water-rescue teams in one of the biggest relief operations in US history aimed at plucking residents from rooftops in the last of the "golden 72 hours" rescuers said was crucial to saving lives.

As fires burned from broken natural gas mains, the skies above the city buzzed with National Guard and Coast Guard helicopters frantically dropping baskets on roofs where victims had been stranded since the storm roared in with a 230-kph fury on Monday.

'Help us'

Atop one apartment building, two children held up a giant sign scrawled with the words: "Help us!"

Looters used garbage cans and inflatable mattresses to float away with food, blue jeans, tennis shoes, TV sets—even guns. Outside one pharmacy, thieves commandeered a forklift and used it to push up the storm shutters and break through the glass. The driver of a nursing home bus surrendered the vehicle to thugs after being threatened.

Police were asking residents to give up any firearms before they evacuated neighborhoods because officers desperately needed the firepower. Some officers who had been stranded on the roof of a hotel said they were shot at.

Top priority

Police said their first priority remained saving lives, and mostly just stood by and watched the looting. But Nagin later said the looting had gotten so bad that stopping the thieves became the top priority for the police department.

'Heavily populated'

"They are starting to get closer to heavily populated areas — hotels, hospitals, and we're going to stop it right now," Nagin said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Hundreds of people wandered up and down shattered Interstate 10—the only major freeway leading into New Orleans from the east—pushing shopping carts, laundry racks, anything they could find to carry their belongings.

On some of the few roads that were still open, people waved at passing cars with empty water jugs, begging for relief. Hundreds of people appeared to have spent the night on a crippled highway.

Mass evacuation

Nagin, whose pre-hurricane evacuation order got most of his city of a half a million out of harm's way, estimated that 50,000 to 100,000 people had remained. He said that 14,000 to 15,000 people a day could be evacuated in ensuing convoys.

"We have to," Nagin said. "It's not living conditions."

He also expressed concern about people staying in the water: "People walking in that water with those dead bodies, it can get in your pores, you don't have to drink it."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency was considering housing people on cruise ships, in tent cities, mobile home parks, and so-called floating dormitories.

Soup of sewage, gas, trash

The floodwaters streamed into the city's streets from two levee breaks near Lake Pontchartrain a day after New Orleans thought it had escaped catastrophic damage from Katrina. The floodwaters covered 80 percent of the city, in some areas 6 meters deep, in a reddish-brown soup of sewage, gasoline and garbage.

Around midday, officials with the state and the Army Corps of Engineers said the water levels between the city and the lake had equalized, and water had stopped spilling into New Orleans and even appeared to be falling. But the danger was far from over.

The Corps of Engineers said it planned to use heavy-duty Chinook helicopters to drop 6,800-kg bags of sand and stone as early as Wednesday night into the 150-meter gap in the failed flood wall.

Blocked

But the agency said it was having trouble getting the sandbags and dozens of highway barriers to the site because the city's waterways were blocked by loose barges, boats and large debris. *AP*

AT A GLANCE

From page A1

- Sections of Interstate 10, the only major freeway leading into New Orleans from the east, have been destroyed.
- At least 713,000 customers were estimated without power.
- BellSouth Corp., the region's dominant local phone provider, estimated that about 750,000 lines may be out of service in the most heavily damaged areas.
- Looting broke out in some New Orleans neighborhoods. Thieves took guns from a Wal-Mart. One police officer was shot in the head by looters but is expected to recover. Looters also used a forklift to smash open a pharmacy.

MISSISSIPPI

- Deaths: At least 110.
- More than 236,000 customers without power.
- Hundreds of waterfront homes, businesses, community landmarks and condominiums obliterated.
- Casinos built on barges along the coast damaged or destroyed, some floated across beaches onto land. A dozen casinos employ about 14,000 people and generate $2.7 billion in annual revenues.
- More than 1,600 Mississippi National Guardsmen activated.
- Major bridges damaged in three coastal counties.
- Looters picked through casino slot machines for coins and ransacked other businesses.

ALABAMA

- Deaths: Two.
- About 325,000 homes and businesses without power.
- Flooding reached 3.3 meters in Mobile, matching record set in 1917, according to National Weather Service. Water up to roofs of cars in downtown Mobile and bayou communities. Piers ransacked and grand homes flooded along Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay.
- Major bridge over the Mobile River partially reopened; it was struck by an oil drilling platform that floated away from a shipyard.

FLORIDA

- Deaths: 11.
- About 80,700 customers without power.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- President George W. Bush cut his Texas vacation to return to Washington.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent medical teams, rescue squads and groups prepared to supply food and water into disaster areas.
- The Navy sent four ships to the Gulf Coast with water, other supplies.

OIL MARKETS

- Crude oil prices dropped to a little below $70 a barrel after the US government decided to make petroleum available from the strategic reserve.
- Oil and gas companies found some Gulf of Mexico oil rigs as far as 38 km from their original locations. *AP*

THE GRIM task of recovering bodies continues three days after the monster storm smashed the Gulf Coast, this one's at the University of Southern Mississippi's Huckleberry Hill Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Pass Christian, Mississippi. REUTERS

Chavez slams Bush for delayed reaction

CARACAS—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Wednesday blasted US President George W. Bush for waiting until after Hurricane Katrina hit the United States to end his vacation in Texas.

At the same time, Chavez, a leftist leader who frequently lashes out against Bush, expressed sympathy for the storm's victims and repeated his offer to send aid workers to the devastated southern American states.

And Citgo, the US subsidiary of Venezuela's state-owned oil giant PDVSA, announced it would donate $1 million to US aid organizations helping hurricane victims.

"For four days there were warnings that (Katrina) was going to make a direct hit, and the king of vacations at his ranch only said 'you must flee.' He did not say how," Chavez said, charging that the United States had no evacuation plans.

"It's the rancher mentality," he added.

The White House announced Tuesday that Bush was cutting his nearly five-week vacation by two days. He surveyed the devastation from Air Force One on Wednesday as he flew back to Washington.

The United States and Venezuela have had a testy relationship under Chavez, whom Washington has branded a "negative force" in the region.

The Venezuelan leader has accused the United States of wanting to assassinate him and has called Bush a "jerk." *AFP*

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Court stops opening of BF Homes gates

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE UNITED BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBFHAI) could regain control over the main gates of their subdivision.

The Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court Branch 256 has reaffirmed an injunction on the implementation of a city ordinance making the subdivision's main roads public.

Judge Alberto Lerma ordered on Wednesday afternoon Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe, the city council and local police "to immediately cease and desist from directly or indirectly opening Aguirre and El Grande [Avenues] or other main or secondary roads in the [subdivision] to the public."

He also prohibited the local government from interfering in any way with the authority of UBFHAI to manage the traffic flow in the subdivision until the court has issued a final decision.

In 1997, Parañaque passed City Ordinance No. 97-08 reclassifying as commercial zones BF Homes' Aguirre and El Grande Avenues.

City Ordinance No. 00-15 passed in 2000 provided for the opening to the public of roads in subdivisions linked to major city thoroughfares.

Lerma said the Writ of Preliminary Mandatory Injunction issued in 2000 had not been cancelled by the court. The court was also "in the process of considering" UBFHAI's motion for reconsideration.

The association filed an Urgent Ex-Parte Manifestation and a Motion to Explain against the local government after it "forcibly" opened the BF Homes' gates on Aug. 26.

The court directed the local government to file its comment on the motion within 10 days from receipt of the order. The association was also told to reply in 10 days for resolution of the issue.

"Whether the mayor likes it or not, he should back out from interfering in our business," said UBFHAI president Celso Reyes over the phone yesterday.

But, as of press time, the El Grande, Aguirre and Elizalde gates remained open to the public.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Bernabe said they had yet to receive the court order.

"The order has to be served officially to my office," said Bernabe.

Reyes told the INQUIRER the order was delivered to Bernabe's office around 2 p.m. yesterday.

He added that the order to cease and desist from opening the gates was already moot and academic.

"The police read the order only after we opened the gates this morning at 7:30 a.m.," the mayor told the INQUIRER.

He said the photocopied order from the court was only received by police at the BF gates only at 9 a.m. yesterday.

Bernabe said he was meeting with his legal advisers to study the court order.

METROBRIEFS

Pressing his luck

AS IF taking a cop's cellphone was not enough, a suspected robber who identified himself as a policeman also tried to grab the service firearm of PO2 Ronald Allan Ang in Malabon City late Wednesday evening. Ryan Actub, 22 a resident of Magsaysay St. San Agustin, Malabon, snatched the policeman's celliphone inside a jeepney when it stopped to let off a passenger along Rizal Avenue Extension. After a brief chase, the suspect was cornered, but instead of giving up, he and a companion, Angelito Santos, began mauling the arresting officer. The commotion caught the attention of a member of the city's Special Weapons and Tactics Unit who was passing by. But before PO2 Ruderick Madrid could intervene, a shot rang out, hitting Actub. " The policeman had no choice but to shoot, otherwise the suspects would kill him," an investigator said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

No place for illegal parking

MAKE sure you park your car properly when in Manila. A city councilor has proposed an ordinance seeking to implement the use of a device or system that would rid the city of illegally parked vehicles. In his proposal, Councilor Greco Belgica said the use of wheel clamps or tire lock system to immobilize illegally parked and unattended vehicles, particularly in streets or areas designated as no parking or tow away zones, would make the city's traffic management system more efficient.

The wheel clamp or tire lock is a yellow metal gadget or device placed on the front tire of the vehicle. Belgica said that the device would be used on vehicles that has been issued official parking violation notices. He added that the proposed system would also eliminate the worries of vehicle owner that his car was stolen when it had been towed away.

Tina G. Santos

Makati clears waterways

ANTICIPATING rains in the coming months, the Makati City government has begun clearing its waterways to prevent flooding in the city's residential and commercial areas. City Hall announced yesterday that the local Department of Engineering and Public Works (DEPW) and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) have started intensified operations to unclog creeks and other waterways, as part of the local flood control effort. Top priorities in flood control operations are Makati's low-lying areas, particularly west-side barangays including San Antonio, San Isidro, La Paz, Kasilawan, and Tejeros, near the city's border with neighboring Manila, and creeks in Amorsolo, PNR, Zanzibar, Camachile, Calatagan, Bangkal, Zyris, Paloma, Aranay, Target Range, and 21st Avenue. DES chief Danny Villas added that they had also launched an information campaign and orientation seminars in creekside barangays enjoining residents to keep the waterways trash-free. The flood control project augments the continuing dredging and clearing operations of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for major creeks and waterways in the metropolis.

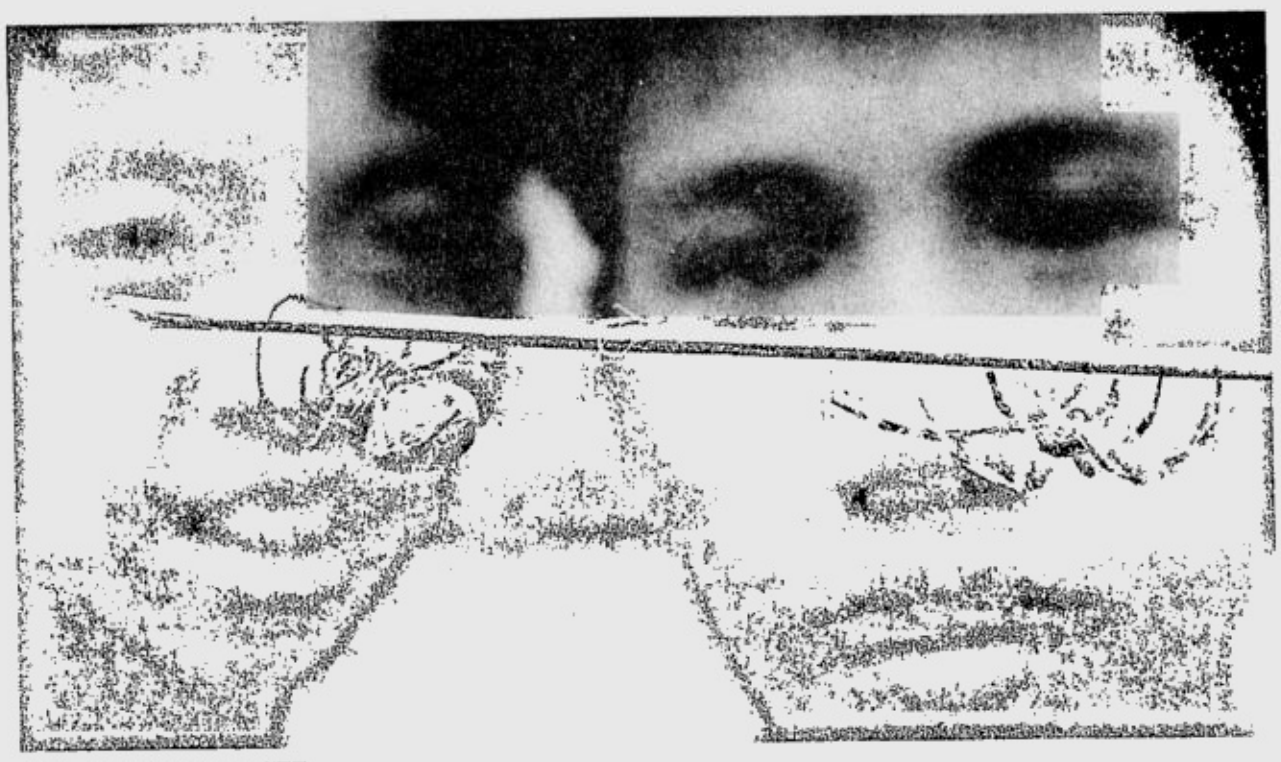
Tarra V. Quismundo

GCAP meet at Miriam

THE GLOBAL Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Philippines will "invade" Miriam College today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. GCAP is a growing worldwide alliance of organizations, networks and national campaigns committed to eradicating extreme poverty, working together to take action across the world to force world leaders to tackle the causes of poverty, and meet and exceed their own promises on the Millennium Development Goals. GCAP Philippines will sponsor, together with Miriam College's Institutional Network for Social Action (INSA) and Maryknoll/Miriam Alumni Association and Miriam College-Senior Council, the MC launch of GCAP at the college's mini theater. Among the speakers at the forum are Liberal Party Rep. Erin Tanada of Quezon province, GCAP-Philippines coordinator Marivic Raquiza, and Bobby Garcia of Education Network. Noel Cabangon, a GCAP supporter, will be the guest singer.

Librarians' forum today

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association, Inc. in cooperation with the Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc. is holding a Forum on Ethical Issues and Concerns in Collection Management at 10 a.m. today at the World Trade Center Function Room B, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, in conjunction with the 26th Philippine Book Fair.



ALL-TIME FAVORITE
Young boys intently watch a spider fight, a favorite pastime in a Makati neighborhood. ERIK ARAZAS

Winner scores in round 2 vs city hall

By Tina G. Santos

ENVIRONMENTALISTS scored against the Manila government when the court allowed their witness to testify and shed light on issues related to the controversial Arroceros Forest Park.

Judge Teresa Soriaso of Regional Trial Court Branch 27 denied on Wednesday a motion to quash a subpoena filed by city goverment lawyers, according to Jojo Paras, counsel for park caretakers Winner Foundation. The group had earlier filed a case against the city government to prevent it from building a teachers' building in the park.

The motion prevented opposition city councilor Bernie Ang from testifying in court last week. Ang had sponsored the resolution allowing the city government to buy the 2.1-hectare park from the Land Bank of the Philippines during the term of Mayor Alfredo Lim. Through a Memorandum of Agreement in 1993, city hall handed over the property to Winner which prepared a 20-year forest development plan for the park.

Paras said that under the law, a subpoena could be quashed only if the testimony of the witness was irrelevant. "Ang's testimony can't be deemed irrelevant because he was privy to the city government's acquisition of the property," Paras said.

He added that the court already issued a subpoena for Ang, who would testify in a hearing on Monday.

Earlier, Atienza said he welcomed Winner's move to summon him in court to settle the issue. "I'm willing to work with the environmentalists," he said.

MRT wants to cut operating time by 1 hour

By Clarissa S. Batino

BARELY three weeks since it started operating up to midnight, the Metro Rail Transit 3 has asked the Department of Transportation and Communications to allow it to cut its run by an hour or up to 11 p.m.

MRT 3 General Manager Roberto Lastimoso had asked the DOTC to let the railway agency end its operations by 11 p.m. so it would have sufficient time to conduct its regular inspection of the coaches, tracks, wirings, and other crucial components.

"Our maintenance work is suffering with the extended operations. We have to prioritize the safety of the trains and the passengers," said Mariano Gui, MRT spokesperson.

MRT 3 now runs from 5:30 a.m. to 12 midnight, but the agency running it wants to shorten operations by an hour. Before Aug. 22, the last MRT train left the Baclaran station at 10:30 p.m.

The DOTC decided to extend the railway's operations in line with the Arroyo administration's campaign to save fuel. The midnight run also served night shift employees like those working in call centers.

Gui said that by 4 a.m., the MRT's "finance train" already runs from one station to another to deliver the tickets and money for change.

"We need more time for operations. Now, we only have about three hours to conduct maintenance services," the spokesperson said.

Shortening operating hours, according to Gui, should not matter too much to commuters because there were not many passengers on the midnight run.

Metro-wide survey begins for bike routes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has begun mapping out a bike lane network in the metropolis, intent on completing as soon as possible its walk and pedal ways project called Metro Padyakan.

Guided by a checklist for an ideal bike route, the Traffic Engineering Center (TEC) the MMDA Traffic Operations Center has started a metro-wide survey of possible bike routes, TEC chief Ramon Ona said yesterday.

"Our number one consideration in looking for bike routes is the possibility that it could be interconnected with the planned network of bike lanes," Ona told the INQUIRER.

With the permission of local government units, TEC teams have started inspecting inner roads in Metro Manila's 17 cities and municipalities to identify streets that would qualify as bike and pedestrian lanes for its project.

The MMDA plans to create an interconnected 200-kilometer walk and pedal way network in the metro estimated to cost about P362.5 million.

"Ideally, we should find a route that could be dedicated to pedestrians and bikers, and closed to vehicles," Ona said. "But there are roads which are not available for this purpose, and so we could use the lane closest to the easement."

Among the criteria the TEC used in planning the network are road use, the surroundings, and the soundness of the existing pavement.

"We were looking at secondary roads because there is less vehicle volume there. We also check if the road is used by jeepneys, tricycles, or private vehicles, whether it passes through a residential area, or if there are businesses that would be affected," Ona said.

As the project was conceived as a means to encourage city residents and workers to walk or bike to their destinations amid rising transportation costs, the bike routes should lead to markets, groceries, malls, and workplaces like factories and offices, Ona added.

4 kidnap victims rescued in QC

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE rescued four kidnap victims, three of them children, from a safehouse in Quezon City Wednesday night.

In Peñafrancia, Payatas B, police arrested three persons allegedly guarding the victims. Three other suspects, including a policeman assigned with the Aviation Security Group, were arrested that same night in Lower Bicutan, Taguig City.

"I hope this convinces the public, particularly the Chinese-Filipino community, that we are sincere and we work hard to neutralize KFR (kidnap for ransom) groups," said Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, chief of the Presidential Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (PACER), the police's elite anti-kidnapping unit.

Though the kidnappers demanded P50 million, no ransom was paid, according to anti-crime advocate Teresita Ang-See.

Kidnapping cases were on the rise in the last two months, both police officials and anti-crime advocates confirmed.

Between July 6 and 17, for example, the Citizens Action against Crime (CAAC) reported five cases of kidnapping.

Ang-See, CAAC head, blamed the resurgence of kidnapping partly on the worsening political situation. Policemen, she said, were distracted. She also cited the lack of funds for the police's anti-kidnapping unit.

After declaring in her state of the nation address that kidnapping cases were a "thing of the past," President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a more aggressive anti-KFR campaign.

The rescued victims—twins aged 11, their sister, 9; and 60-year-old nanny—were reunited with their family the same night.

The children were kidnapped in the early morning of Aug. 30 on their way to school from a middle-class village in Quezon City, police said. The kidnappers commandeered their van, leaving the driver behind.

Calderon identified those arrested in the safehouse as Crispin Araneta, 24; Anabelle Olidan, 31; and Benjamin Olidan, 30. They were described as "watchers" in a police report. Arrested in Taguig were P01 Antonio Castillo, 33; Godofredo Navanes, 39; and Lynfer Bicudo, 39.

Following a report from a caller about "suspicious-looking persons" in their neighborhood, police put the place under surveillance.

At the Peñafrancia safehouse, police recovered PNP uniform set, a PNP pistol belt, and handcuffs.

Seized in Lower Bicutan were a maroon Nissan Urvan without a plate number, a shotgun, a 38mm gun, and Castillo's PNP ID.

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See print ads and flyers for complete details.

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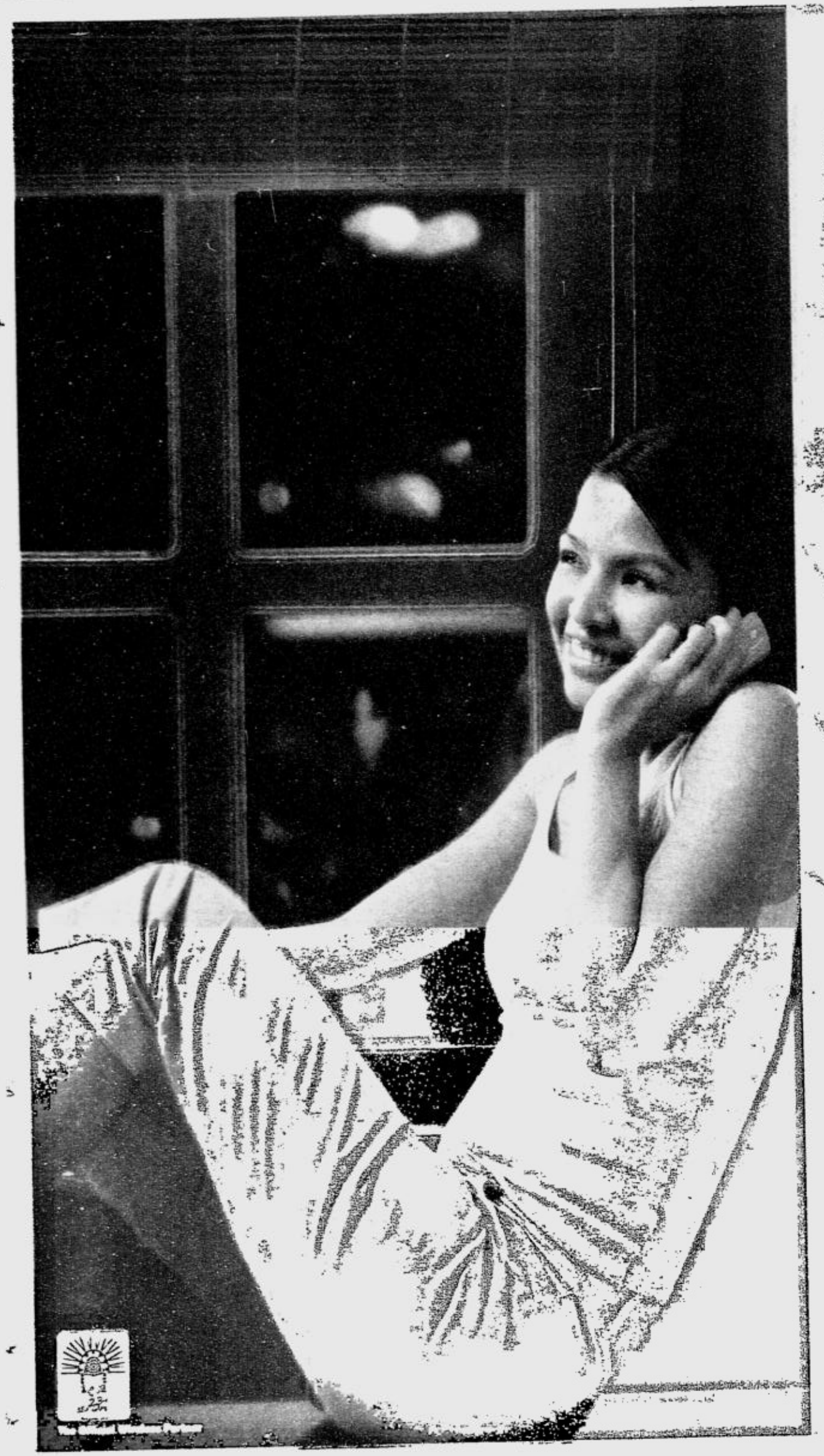

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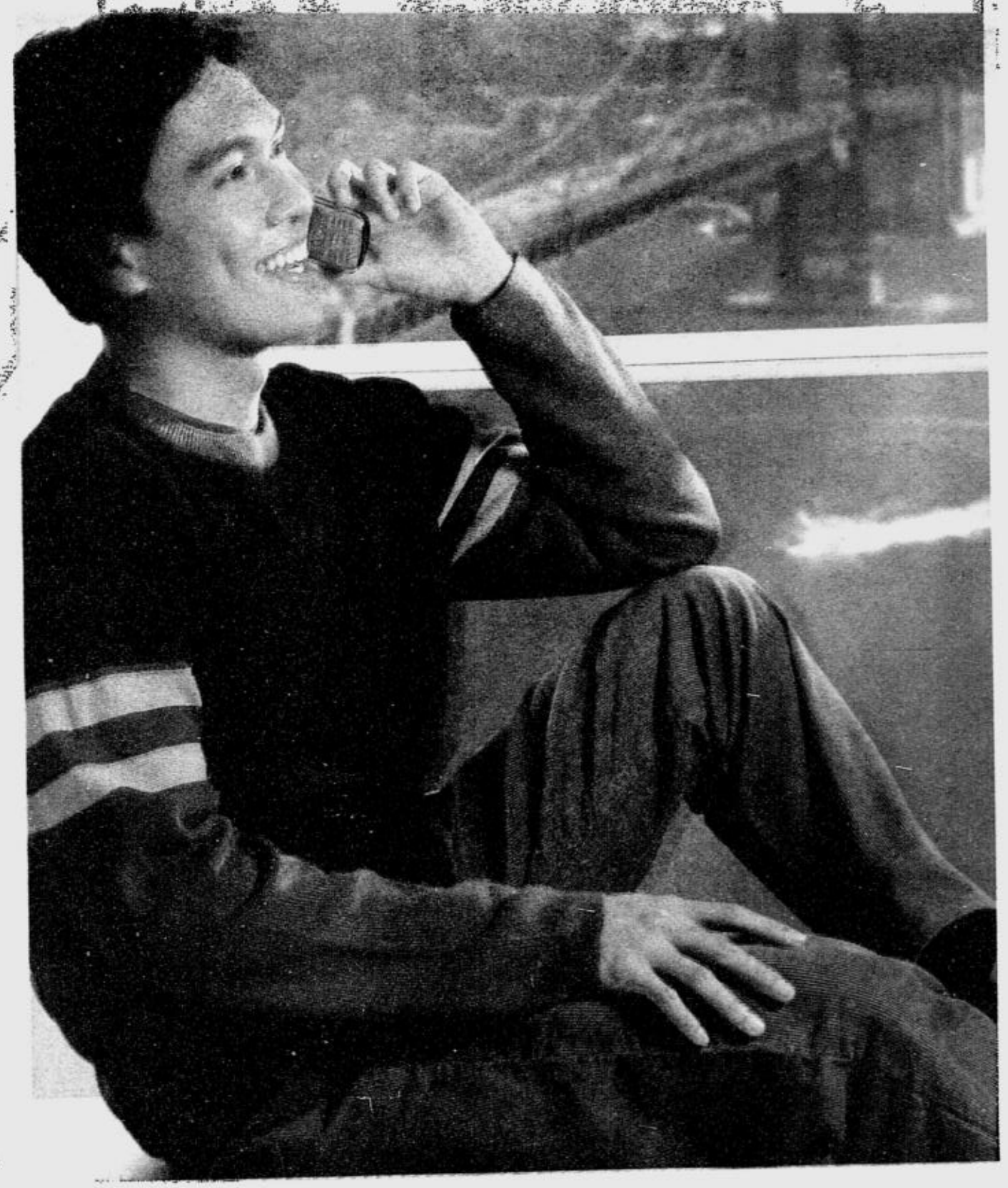


SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: 2005 US Open; 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.; Sports Plus – Check out the second round from Flushing Meadows.

BASEBALL: MLB – Athletics vs Angels; 10 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN – Oakland takes on LA-Anaheim in the AL.

BADMINTON: 2005 IBF World Badminton Championships; 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. (r); STAR Sports.

PBF won't throw in towel, to appeal Fiba decision

By Musong R. Castillo

A BRIGHT idea that will allow everyone to save face.

Philippine Basketball Federation incorporator Joey Romasanta believes that this will happen, and the cage competition in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games will still be held despite the failure of the Philippine Olympic Committee to seek affiliation for the PBF with the international basketball federation (Fiba).

"I trust the patriotic sense of the Filipino," Romasanta, also the spokesman for POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"I am very sure that somebody will come up with a bright idea for a win-win solution and everybody saves face."

Romasanta said the PBF will appeal the Fiba decision, signed by secretary general Patrick Baumann. The verdict reaffirmed the world body's recognition of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

"As in all cases, we will appeal," Romasanta added. "We will exhaust all efforts. I think only an explanation is needed. (BAP president Jose) Lina had the luxury of talking personally to Baumann and we didn't.

"If you read it carefully, Baumann's statement was the exact things that the BAP has been saying."

The Fiba denied the PBF's request for recognition in a letter sent to the PBF on Tuesday. A copy was also furnished the BAP and the POC.

Romasanta remained optimistic that things can still be ironed out.

"Reading between the lines (of the Fiba letter), the Fiba still respects the position of the POC. Otherwise, the suspension on the Philippines would have been lifted already."

He said the Fiba decision basically required the POC to re-admit the BAP and for all stakeholders to exhibit harmony, something which he said will be very hard to do considering the events that transpired since the BAP's expulsion from the POC.

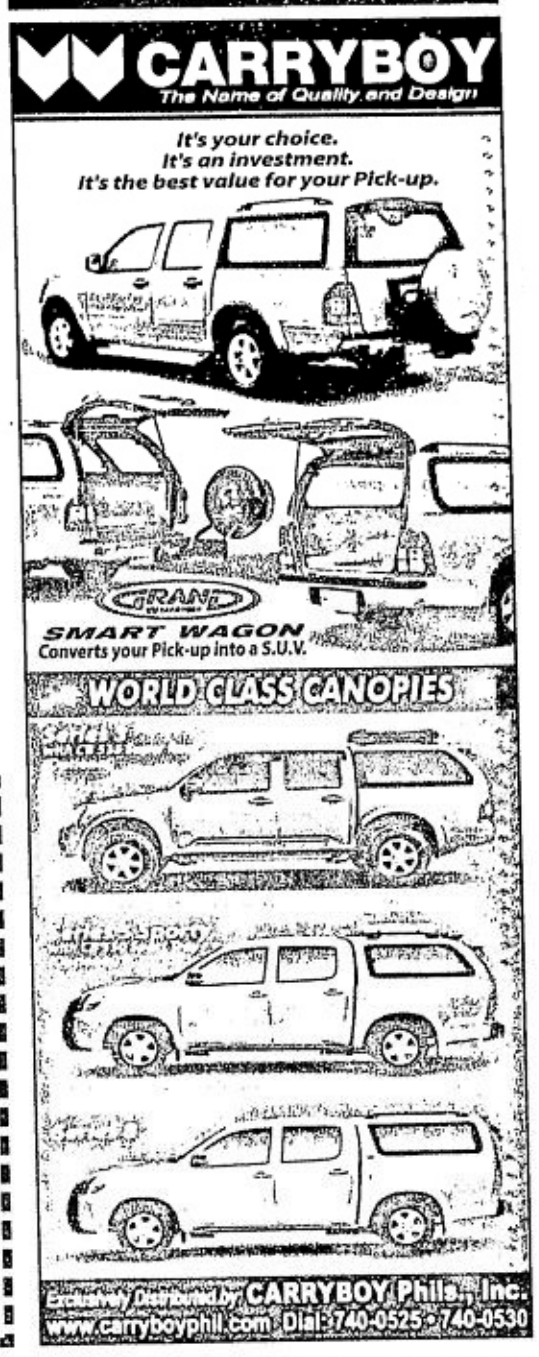
"How will you undo the PBF now, which is the body duly recognized by the POC?" Romasanta said. "This would have been avoided if the BAP had stuck to the basic agreements (of the April cage summits)."

Cojuangco had said he would resign as POC president if the BAP is re-admitted into the POC, which expelled the cage body by a vote of 33-2 from fellow National Sports Associations last June 30.

86 days to go before the 23rd SEA Games

Fil-Ams beef up RP booters

THE PHILIPPINE women's football team will be reinforced by two Fil-Americans in the Southeast Asian Games. Attacking midfielders Angeline Impelido and Michelle Manrique, both from Illinois, will fly into the country in early November to join the RP booters who are seeking to land the gold after finishing fifth in 2003. The duo actually suited up for the Philippines last June, helping the country to a decent finish in the Asian Women's Championship in Vietnam.



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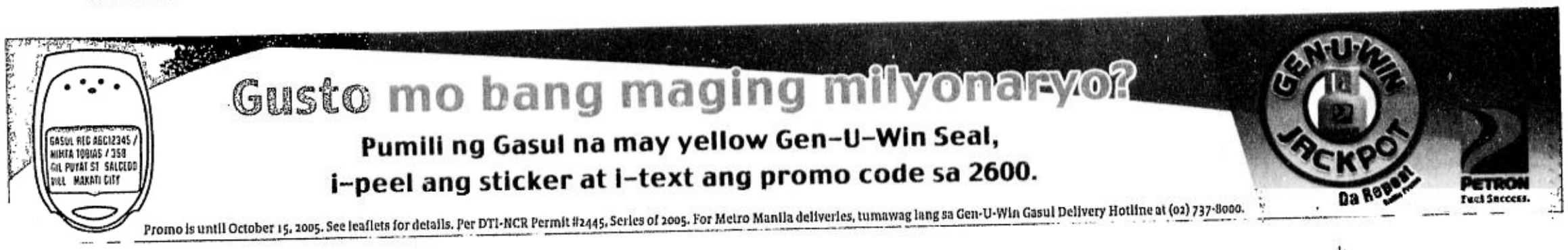


Archers slip past Warriors in extra time

By Jasmine W. Payo

JOSEPH Yeo and JV Casio came out big in overtime to lead the La Salle Archers past the resilient University of the East Warriors, 86-83, yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Yeo topscored with 19 points, while Casio buried back-to-back triples in the extra period to secure the win for the Archers, who needed a low-post basket at the buzzer by Cholo Villanueva to force the extension at 74-all.

"After converting that shot with only one second left [in regulation], I told the boys that I think it's still going to be us," said Archers coach Franz Pumaren. "I told them that we just have to dig deeper. We're in great shape and we showed that we're really prepared for any possible scenario."

Although foiled in their bid for the second semifinal slot, the Warriors remained third with an 8-4 record behind the idle Ateneo Eagles (8-2).

The Far Eastern U Tamaraws claimed the first Final Four ticket with a league-leading 9-1 slate.

Earlier, the University of the Philippines Maroons staged a spirited 16-0 rally in the final six minutes for a 70-63 victory over the Adamson Falcons.

The Maroons (6-6) were commended by coach Lito Vergara for keeping their Final Four bid alive.

"We expected a physical game, but I told the players not to retaliate," said Vergara. "We needed that mental toughness."

Marvin Cruz and rookie Axel Doruelo led the Maroons with 14 points apiece while Nestor David added 12 points and 12 rebounds.

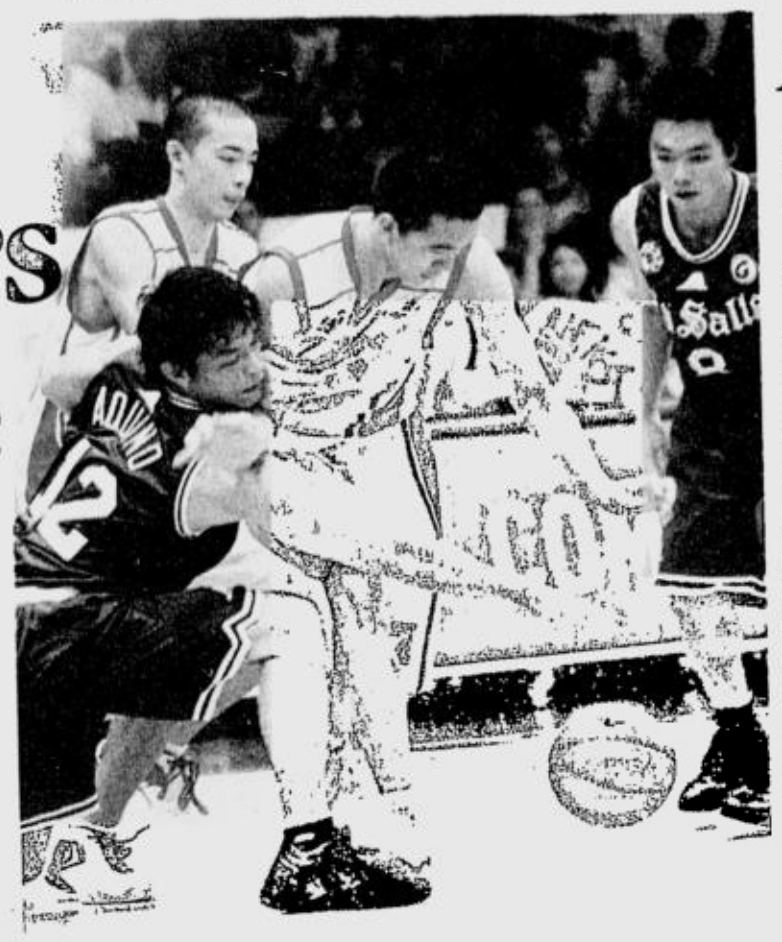
The Falcons bowed out of the semifinal race after dropping to 3-9.

The Archers, who boosted their own Final Four chances at 7-4, led at 72-68 before the Warriors mounted an improbable comeback in the last nine seconds of regulation.

After Robert Labagala failed to complete a three-point play, Luis Palaganas' basket off a steal tied the game, 72-72, with 7.1 ticks left.

A Marcy Arellano lay-up off another steal lifted the Warriors, 72-74, time down to 1.8 seconds.

But the Archers called a timeout to set the final play for Villanueva, who struck unmolested after receiving the inbound pass.



LA SALLE'S JR Aquino (left) contests the loose ball with UE's Angelus Raymundo and Jorel Canizares. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Adamson forward Roel Hugnatan was ejected in the last two minutes for swinging a punch during a loose-ball scuffle, while coach Mel Alas was thrown out for pushing a referee with 13 seconds to go.

In junior play, the Bengals claimed the first Final Four slot after drubbing the Pages, 79-52, for a 9-2 record. The Junior Maroons routed the Baby Falcons, 56-37, to keep fourth spot at 8-4.

The varsity scores:

First Game (Srs)

UP 70—Doruelo 14, Cruz 14, David 12, Ferrer 10, Valnlo 6, Epres 5, Sorongon 3, Santos 3, Quebral 1, Padolina 1, Gavino 1, Buyco 0.

ADAMSON 63—Bono 17, Hate 12, Cabahug 11, Yong 8, Hugnatan 8, Tiongco 5, Pacheco 2, Tajonera 0, Poloyapoy 0, Gonzalgo 0

Quarters: 16-16, 29-38, 46-53, 70-63

Second Game (Srs)

LA SALLE 86—Yeo 19, Villanueva 16, Cabatu 13, Maeirhofer 12, Benitez 11, Casio 6, Araña 4, Tang 3, Cua 2, Rivera 0, Aquino 0.

UE 83—Custodio 26, Palaganas 13, Gregorio 13, Borboran 11, Arellano 9, Labagala 4, Espiritu 3, Raymundo 2, Cañizares 2, Saguindel 0

Quarters: 19-18, 34-37, 55-52, 74-74, 86-83 (OT).

Asian Streetball finals Saturday

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE FILIPINOS' passion for basketball—best characterized by the omnipresent makeshift goal on the streets all over the metropolis—reaches fever pitch this weekend when the country's finest sandlot cagers compete in the Adidas Asian Streetball Challenge finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Streetball, a collective term for exuberant, fast-paced and unrehearsed brand of play, will pit the best boys' and girls' teams from five countries—the Philippines, China, Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong and South Korea.

The local teams will be bannered by San Beda in the boys' division, and a selection from the Naascu in the girls' category. The country won the boys' event in 2002, while the girls' team took the crown when the event was last held here in 2000.

Portland Trail Blazers rookie sensation Sebastian Telfair yesterday helped launch the event in a media conference at the Edsa Shangri-la hotel, following the footsteps of NBA superstars Kobe Bryant and Tracy MacGrady who graced the same event years before.

"Manila is the perfect place to hold the Streetball finals because of the fact that Filipinos are very basketball-loving people," said Telfair, the six-foot showman who barged into the NBA straight from high school.

Telfair, who will be conducting clinics today at the Moro Lorenzo Gym, created a stir in the NBA after being given ample playing time near the end of the 2004-05 season.

This year, Telfair has been assured of the starting point guard position following the departure of Damon Stoudamire.

Asked by reporters about his reaction to New York's Stephon Marbury's claim to being the best guard in the NBA, Telfair said: "Yes, he's the best guard in the NBA right now... for me."

Marbury happens to be Telfair's cousin.

Competition days will be tomorrow and Sunday, with side events like the slamdunk contest, three-point shoot-out, free throw competition, street dance and extreme sports demo also on tap. The program starts at 9 a.m.

Iriga hosts Milo Junior Tennis Cup

THE QUEST for free Malaysia tournament trips as grand prizes start when the regional eliminations for the South Luzon area of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup is hosted by the USANT Tennis Club in Iriga City starting today. Featured events in the netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by adidas are the boys' and girls' 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions. The five regional champions will travel to Manila for the National Finals on Oct. 29-30 to determine the Milo-RP team players who will compete in the 2005 Malaysia Junior Tennis Circuit in December.

Michele regains Asian kart lead

STEADY DOES IT: Michele Bumgarner (left) catches Indon Rian Haryanto before pulling in front to stay.

SENTUL, Indonesia—Defending champion Michele Bumgarner bucked all the odds to win the second leg of the 2005 Asian Zone Karting Championship Sunday at the Sentul Circuit here.

Unable to get a feel of the tricky track with the late arrival of her equipment, the 15-year-old Bumgarner relied on her skills to win the race in 20 minutes 25.943 seconds and grab the lead in the premier Intercon-A class.

"It was tougher this time," said Bumgarner, daughter of an American businessman and his Filipina wife from Zambales. "We had problems getting the right setup in time, the track was really challenging and, of course, the Indonesians were really after our necks. But I'm happy to have survived it all."

Michele wrapped up the race 8.433 seconds ahead of Indonesian Rian Haryanto, while her younger brother, Mark, driving consistently, salvaged third place by clocking 20:38.296.

Lee Bumgarner, father and coach of Michele, claimed a large part of the credit for the come-from-behind win of his daughter, whose Indonesian stint was supported by Samsung, Accel, Oakley, Bridgestone, PowerAde, Prive Hair Salon, Gold's Gym and Malaysia Airlines.

Lee had Michele and Mark skip the second qualifying session in order to conserve tires for Saturday's three 15-lap heats.

"The strategy was to not push at all in the pre-final race and just drive steady to conserve the tire," said Lee. "It proved to be the right decision."

Asistio fires 63, trails Bibat by 1

BAGUIO—Jungolfer Tonton Asistio sprang out of nowhere to emerge as an unlikely title contender, shooting a six-under-par 63 yesterday to move within a stroke of Michael Bibat after the third round of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

The 16-year-old Asistio shot nine birdies, including a string of three from the 16th, for the tournament's best round so far as he took a crack at becoming the youngest leg winner in the championship division.

Bibat, four shots ahead of the field overnight, took a triple-bogey on the ninth hole and limped home with a one-over 70 and a 201 total.

And with Jay Bayron firing a 68 and Marvin Dumandan returning a 66, highlighted by six birdies, for joint third at 203, a shoot-out is expected in today's final round featuring members of the national training pool.

Meanwhile, Anya Tanpinco held off Milet Villaroman to rule Class A of the ladies' division. Tanpinco shot rounds of 68-71 for a 139 total, three better than the 142 of Villaroman.

The other winners were Joy Sevilla in Class B and Dulce Arriola in Class C. The first two champions in the men's division were Ahn Sung Woo in Class C and Armando Papa in Class D.

Sevilla (83-83-166) turned back Beth Menchavez by four strokes, Arriola (101-102-203) won by two over Rizza Uy, Sung (86-84-170) finished seven strokes ahead of Raul Molintas and Papa (93-87-180) topped his division by six over Daniel Gonzales.

Seigles sign yearlong pacts

By June Navarro

THE COUNTRY'S worsening financial crisis has affected even some of the Philippine Basketball Association's blue-chip players.

Brothers Danny and Andy Seigle, who enjoyed multi-year pacts in the past, recently inked contracts good for only one season with their respective San Miguel Corp. clubs.

Nevertheless, San Miguel Beer's Danny Seigle will still receive the maximum monthly take of P350,000, like his sibling from Barangay Ginebra, a reliable league source told the INQUIRER.

The SMB forward and the 6-foot-8 Ginebra slotman stand to earn at least P4.2 million in salaries apart from bonuses in the new season.

Before the PBA cut the budget of teams, the Seigle brothers both received the maximum wage of P500,000 every month.

The PBA started reducing player and team salary caps in 2003. From P36 million, the team cap is now down to P30 million while the player cap is now P350,000, from P500,000.

NBN-4 to cover Asean Para Games

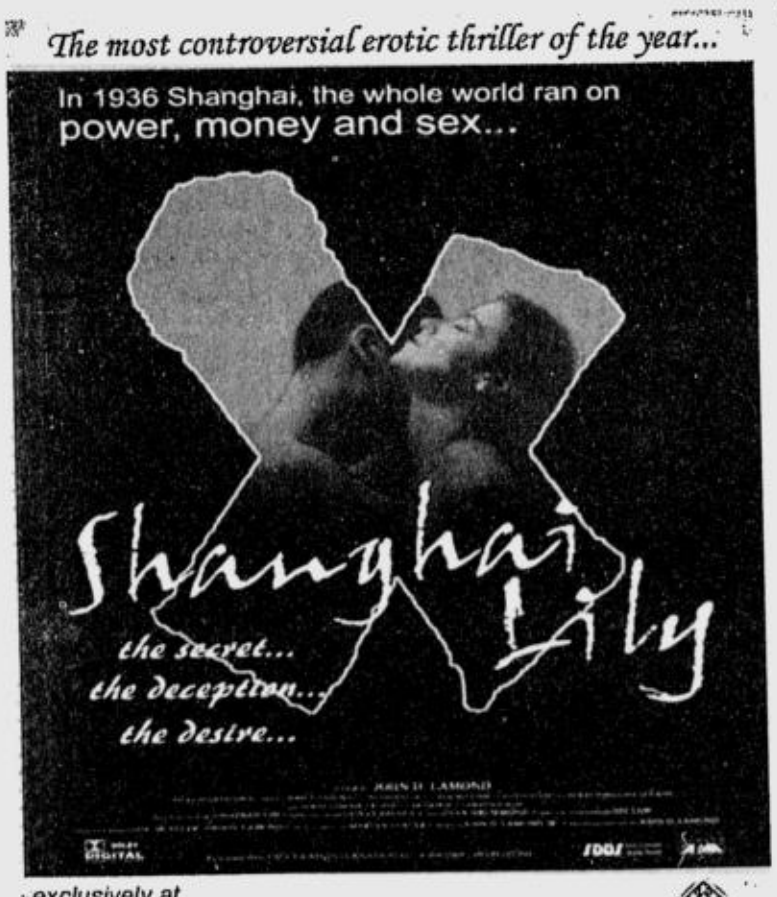
THE PHILIPPINE Asean Para Games Organizing Committee and NBN-4 are set to sign a memorandum of agreement next week to formalize the television coverage of the 3rd Asean Para Games set Dec. 14-21.

The opening and closing rites, games and highlights of other special events related to the competition among the differently abled will be shown on NBN-4, which will also provide footage for TV networks of other participating countries.

"It is a big step in making people aware of the exploits of the differently abled athletes in our region," said Papgoc chair Michael Barredo. "Aside from the spectators in the venues, people in their homes here and abroad will also see and can appreciate the objective of the games—to showcase the triumph of the competitive spirit."

Papgoc marketing manager Bobbit Mathay echoed Barredo's statement, saying: "NBN will help us show the people what the Para Games is all about, they will get to watch a different kind of sports event."

The most controversial erotic thriller of the year...



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Visayas and Mindanao qualifiers for Battle of the Courts tomorrow

TWO MORE qualifiers to the grand finals will be known tomorrow following the simultaneous Visayas and Mindanao eliminations in the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Badminton Cup Year 2.

Top clubs in Cebu and Davao are competing for slots in the national finals of the country's biggest inter-club badminton competition presented by Smart: Simply Amazing, INQUIRER Badminton and Mizuno.

Metro Sports, Portside and Racquet Zone are vying for the Cebu leg to be played at Metro Sports, while Davao Holiday Spa, Wheels 'N More and Smashville Davao are disputing the Mindanao title at Davao Holiday Spa.

The event is also supported by Citibank On-Line, Unilever, Wilson as the official shuttlecock and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier. The other backers are Pinnacle Health Point & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva and Powerade. Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3 are the official media partners. Marco Polo is the official hotel of the Mindanao leg.

Already in the finals are Valle Verde and Myan's, the top two finishers of the East leg, as well as defending national champion The Zone and PowerSmash which bagged the first two spots in the Central qualifying leg. Following the provincial eliminations is Metro Manila's south leg at the Alabang Racquet Club on Sept 10-11.

Kabayan wants Cotabato colors in SEA Games

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

KIDAPAWAN, North Cotabato—It was primitive, but pure and dazzling.

National Geographic would've not hesitated to record and report yesterday's unforgettable harvest festival that highlighted the 91st foundation anniversary of this province.

Sorry, but not even a single national television channel bothered to capture the glimmering moments that transformed the bare field out at the Cotabato Provincial Sports Complex into a frenzied sea of birds, butterflies, rice stalks, fruits, etc. paying homage to the bounty being enjoyed here.

The assorted lilting creatures that exploded into a canvas of sunny, blinding colors were actually young masquerading members of the ten something dance troupes that vied for top honors in the Hinugyaw 2005 street dancing competition.

They made the field momentarily resemble the happiest place on earth.

It was a rare, magical event that any Filipino would've been very proud to show the world.

* * *

Not to worry, assured Vice President Noli de Castro, the guest of honor who caught the tailend of the pageant's introductory portion as he descended on board a helicopter shortly after 8 a.m.

Tipped off by this reporter that the tribal field dances would be perfect for the opening of the Southeast Asian Games, Kabayan, in yellow shirt and matching brown pants, vowed to propose their inclusion in the Games opening ceremony.

De Castro claimed Obet Pagdanganan is his friend.

But Pagdanganan is out as top honcho at Philsoc, he's now practically a figurehead, De Castro was informed.

Is that so? Kabayan asked.

He vowed to look for other ways to have those great numbers included in the SEA Games opening.

* * *

For his part, Gov. Manny Piñol assured they would be more than willing to transport the dance troupes to either Manila or Bacolod for the SEA Games participation.

No question about the dynamism of the troupes, although the province may have to produce a bigger number of participants for each group for them to fit into the grand Games opening scenario.

Piñol said that, with De Castro's suggestion, he's making a formal offer to SEA Games organizers for the select dance troupes of his province to be made part of the opening ceremonies.

That's it. The Games organizers could be provided videos of the Cotabato dance troupes upon request.

* * *

Anyway, in his turn to speak during a formal welcome on a stage amid the rich Hinugyaw fair counters that overflowed with fruits and assorted crops that abound in the province, the Vice President assured his audience how lucky they are to have been born in their quiet, progressive localities.

"Forget about going to Manila, you deserve to be happy and productive here," Kabayan assured listeners in charming Filipino.

He added that Cotabato province used to be ranked among the 10 poorest places in the Philippines.

"Today, it's the favorite of investors in Region 12," he announced to loud cheers, adding that life and progress in the province happily don't get stalled by choking, crippling politics.

De Castro said something about having read happiness and hope in the faces of residents that lined the streets.

Later, Gov. Piñol was to explain the secret behind the smiles and the visible progress in his province.

"If you're able to work for progress and give people reason to hope, they don't just sit and stare at the sky in frustration," the provincial chief executive explained.

He said despair appears to be the prevailing theme in Metro Manila.

Piñol said he doesn't allow dirty politics to distract them from their goals of wholesale development.

Let them quarrel there, we just work together here, he concluded.

The province strives to make more available land productive through various farming programs.

However, to ensure the inclusion of his dancers in the SEA Games, Piñol will have to wait until Kabayan is finally able to issue his own presidential decree.

That would require loads of dirty politics.

14 Panabo pugs going for golds

By Recah Trinidad

MAGPET, Cotabato—Panabo of Davao del Norte all but formalized its ascendancy as top power in the 1st Mindanao Invitational Amateur Boxing Championship after its boxers swarmed into yesterday's finals.

Only two of the Panabo boxers that entered the semifinals failed to move forward.

Panabo was initially listed as having sent in eight boxers to the semifinals, but a check with organizers showed most of these fighters were actually clashing with their own teammates.

Fourteen gold medals—eight in Youth and six in Batang Pinoy categories—were being disputed at the Magpet Gymnasium at presstime yesterday.

Host Cotabato province managed to send in only five finalists.

Davao City, Kapalong, Tulunan and Maasim (Sarangani) have two finalists each, while Misamis Oriental has one.

The tournament, which serves both as a celebration of youth and a talent search, had to be extended another day due to the big number of entries.

The original 18 teams swelled to 36. A total 183 boxers had to compete in two separate rings.

Gov. Manny Piñol, whose brother Magpet Mayor Efren Piñol is the tournament host, said they will pick the first batch of boxers who will next be trained by Cuban coach Honorato Espinosa. These select fighters will be aim for slots in the Philippine team.

Other teams in the tournament came from Ozamiz City, Zamboanga del Norte, University of Mindanao, Agusan Sur, Compostela Valley, Digos City, Davao Sur, Gen. Santos City and Bohol.

Mapua, SSC decide Final Four pairings

THE LETRAN Knights and the Philippine Christian U Dolphins have already claimed the twice-to-beat incentives in the Final Four.

But both teams are not letting their guard down when they battle at 4 p.m. today at the end of the elimination round in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	12	1
PCU	10	3
Mapua	8	5
SSC	7	6
Perpetual	6	8
St. Benilde	5	9
San Beda	4	10
JRU	2	12

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs SSC (Srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Letrn (Srs)
6 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Jrs)

"We're focusing on the playoffs, but we're still looking forward to our next game against PCU," said Letran coach Louie Alas. "There's always the pressure and we have to live up to it."

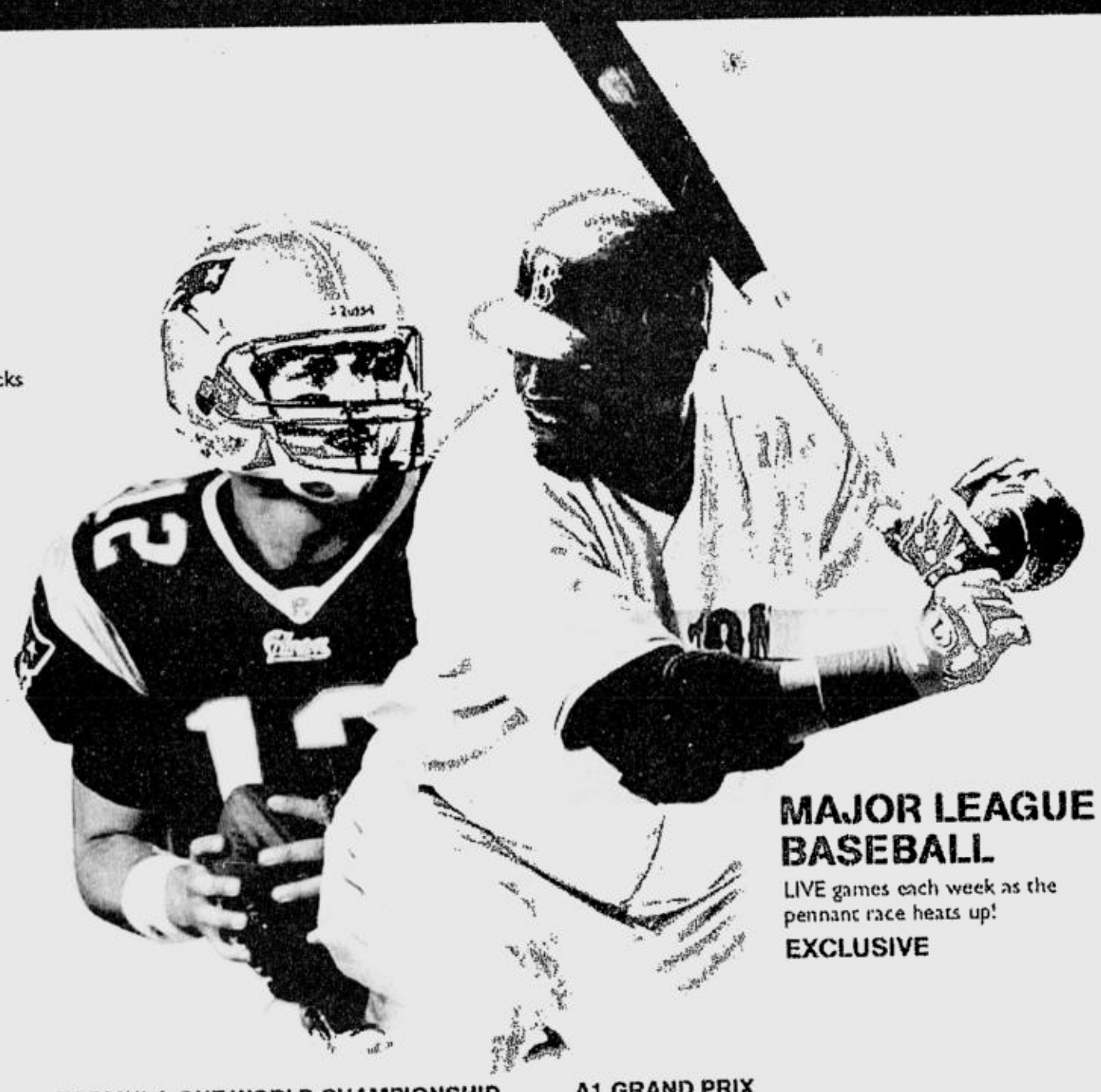
The Final Four pairings will be settled today when Mapua (8-5) take on San Sebastian (7-6) at 2 p.m.

A Stags victory will forge a playoff for the third spot on Wednesday. The Knights will clash against the fourth placer in the Final Four, while the Dolphins will face the third seed.

The Dolphins bucked the absence of suspended coach Junel Baculi to trim the Cards, 66-57 last Wednesday. *Jasmine W. Payo*

WHERE THE STARS COME OUT TO PLAY

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2005



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3 Sept
Liverpool VS Manchester United
18 Sept
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19 Sept
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Nadal survives teener; Sharapov

NEW YORK—Spanish second seed Rafael Nadal withstood the determined challenge of a fellow teenager to keep his US Open bid intact on Wednesday.

American 18-year-old Scoville Jenkins, ranked 350 places below Nadal and playing only his third grand slam match, forced the fist-pumping French Open champion to fight surprisingly hard for a 6-4 7-5 6-4 second round victory.

"Today was very difficult, he is a very good player," said the 19-year-old world number two after reaching the third round at Flushing Meadows for the first time in swirling wind on Arthur Ashe Court. "I needed to play 100 percent to win this match."

The blustery remnants of Hurricane Katrina proved more troublesome than any on-court opponent for Maria Sharapova and the other title contenders.

Women's top seed Sharapova, fourth seed

NADAL

Yao ag to five $75-M

HOUSTON—Amid r has agreed to terms tract extension wo million (euro60 mi Rockets said they w ference call on Thurs

The team said on Wedn owner Leslie Alexander woul

The deal that will keep th ter with the Rockets throug was first reported by Houston

Rockets general manager C firm the agreement when reac

Yao, a native of Shanghai, Chinese national team.

Yao, the first pick in the 20 imum allowed under the NB agreement, according to the 25 percent of the salary cap, worth an estimated $12.5 mil

Yao averaged 18.3 points blocks last season. He has a rebounds in his three-year ca

Meanwhile, Michael Finle agent in the NBA, has deci champion San Antonio Spurs

Iloilo be

ILOILO CITY—The Iloilo W ning string to three games Cagayan de Oro Stars, 96-91 national basketball champio Agustin gym here.

Eldrin Senierez scored a le er the Warriors of IBL preside porter Gov. Niel Tupas to the

The 5-foot-10 Senierez hit in the second quarter to rip t The previous high of 34 wa Sonny Manucat and Baguio's

The Stars of former Mis Calingin even led by four. 7 run fueled by Ronan Isidro a

Francis Sanz knocked six nierez tallied eight more in the Warriors' win. The Stars

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PREMIERE
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2
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3 HINOG SA PILIT
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MUST LOVE DOGS
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

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1 SKY HIGH 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00
2 THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
3 THE LONGEST YARD 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
4 D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05
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SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V
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September 7, Wednesday 2pm
THE CASCADES ENCORE
September 9, Friday 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
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ya breezes through

SHARAPOVA

Kim Clijsters and the Williams sisters Venus and Serena were all unruffled, sweeping into round three without the loss of a single set.

Men's third seed Lleyton Hewitt hurried through to the second round with a 6-1 6-2 6-1 victory over former French Open champion Albert Costa.

Gusts of up to 65 kph turned the ball sideways on occasions at Flushing Meadows but for 18-year-old Russian Sharapova, it was a cakewalk.

She adapted quickly to thrash Madagascan opponent Dally Randriantefy 6-1 6-0. *Reuters*

grees
e-year
l deal

eports that Yao Ming
of a five-year con-
th more than $75
llion), the Houston
ould conduct a con-
day.

sday that Yao and Rockets
d participate in the call.
2.29-meter (7-foot-6) cen-
h the 2010-11 NBA season
television station KRIV.
rroll Dawson would not con-
ned by The Associated Press.
is in China working with the

2 draft, will be paid the max-
's new collective bargaining
reports. The contract will be
neaning the first year will be
lion (euro10 million).
and 8.4 rebounds and two
eraged 16.4 points and 8.5
eer.
, the most sought-after free
led to sign with the league
, ESPN reported. *AP*

ats CdO

rriors extended their win-
Wednesday by downing the
in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC
ship at the University of San

ague-high 39 points to pow-
nt Robert Uy and strong sup-
fifth win in seven games.
18 of the Warriors' 21 points
e contest wide open, 52-40.
shared by Laguna Spring's
Melvin Fontanilla.
mis Oriental Gov. Antonio
-75, in the fourth on a 13-5
d Jaime Rivera.
of his eight points and Se-
he final five minutes to seal
ropped to 4-5.

urakami
nks fifth

MIO Murakami shot a two-
r par 69 yesterday and took
ifth spot, seven shots off the
with 18 holes left in the first
of qualifying for the lucra-
apanese PGA Tour.
er a 75 on Wednesday, the 21-
ld Philippine team standout
d in nines of 34-35 over the
n Valley golf course.
oju Kamii, a member of the
ese team that played in the
d Amateurs in Puerto Rico
November, kept the pace af-
69 and a 137 total.
ly the top 20 scores and ties
ake it to the second stage of
ying, where Filipino pro Jhe-
Delariarte has been seeded.
rakami could miss the com-
EA Games golf tournament
qualifies all the way to the
h stage. *Musong R. Castillo*

oosen leads;
P bets falter

NG—World number five
Goosen blazed a first-round
stamp his authority on the
wagen Masters-China golf
ament here on Thursday.
o eagles and five birdies
st one bogey put the South
n on top of the leaderboard at
under par, two shots ahead of
la's Darren Griff and three bet-
n US Open champion Michael
bell as play continued.
pinos Gerald Rosales and
e Delariarte were nine shots
e pace at 73, one-up on com-
t Danny Zarate (74). Top Fil-
hope Angelo Que was in
danger of missing the cut fol-
g a 77. *AFP*

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VALIANT GP 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	SKY HIGH GP 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05
THE CAVE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS GP 1:30,4:00,6:30,9:00	LONGEST YARD PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

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In Sta. Cruz	SM San Lazaro Premiere Cinemas	1,2,3,4,5,6
In Las Piñas	SM Southmall Premiere Cinemas	1,2,3
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I SING FOR YOU
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SM Centerpoint Cinema 5

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08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 THE CAVE
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45
08:25LFS/09:00LFS/10:40END

MEGAMALL
THE CAVE
10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50
09:30LFS/10:00LFS/10:40END

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09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
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12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:23FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 THE CAVE
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:15LFS/09:30LFS/11:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 VALIANT
6 CINE MANGA
7 PASAWAY NA MULTO
8 SKELETON KEY
9 EVIL EYES
10 LONGEST YARD
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 EVIL EYES
3 VALIANT
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE CAVE
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH
9 LONGEST YARD
10 SKELETON KEY
11 BEWITCHED
12 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CAVE
2 LONGEST YARD
3 SKELETON KEY
4 THE LAZARUS CHILD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 VALIANT
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH

SM CITY STA MESA
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 THE GREAT RAID
9 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
10 VALIANT

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 SKELETONKEY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 EVIL EYES
9 VALIANT
10 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MANILA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 THE CAVE
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 VALIANT
6 SKY HIGH
7 BEWITCHED
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 LONGEST YARD
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SKELETON KEY
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LONGEST YARD
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE CAVE
4 VALIANT
5 SKY HIGH
6 PASAWAY NA MULTO
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 VALIANT
2 CRASH
3 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
4 BEWITCHED

SM CITY LUCENA
1 IF ONLY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 CRASH

SM CITY MARILAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SKELETON KEY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 BEWITCHED
3 CRASH
4 THE EYE INFINITY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 EVIL EYES
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 BEWITCHED
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 SKELETON KEY
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 ICE PRINCESS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE EYE INFINITY

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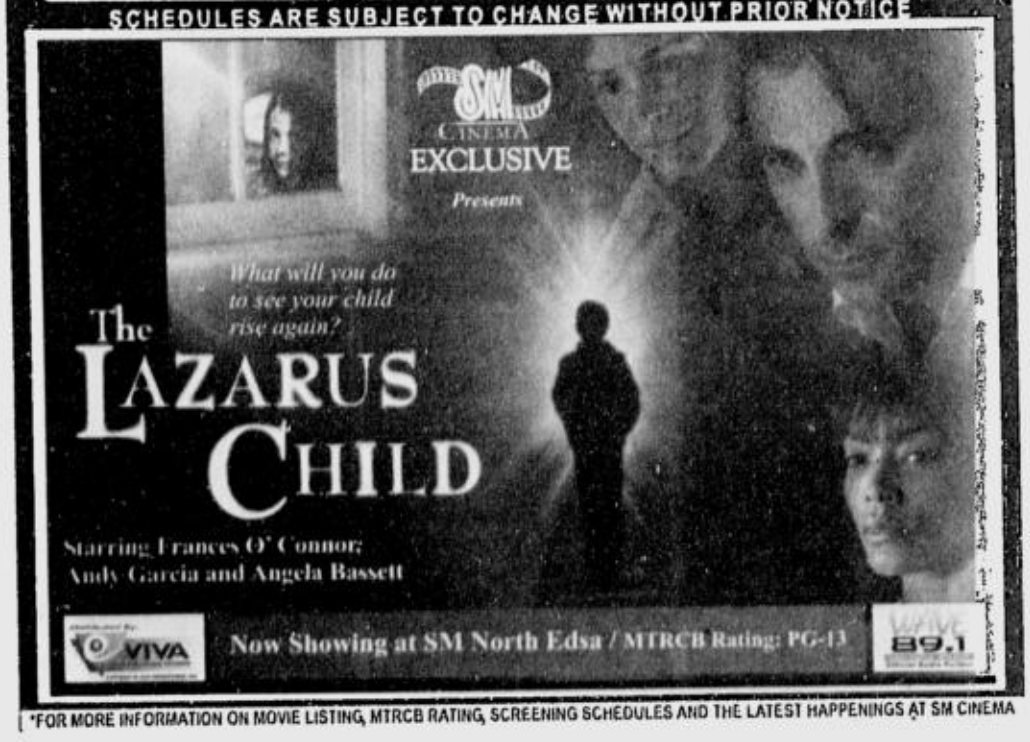

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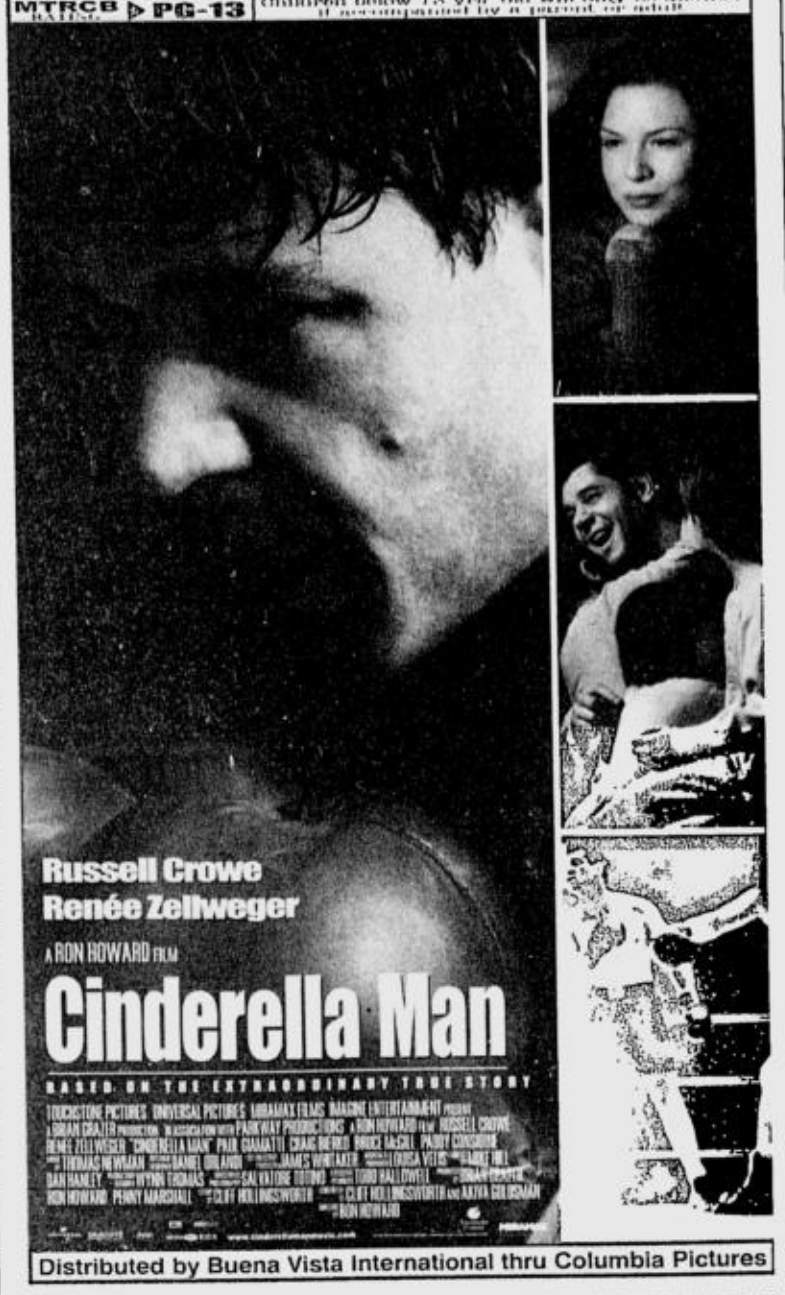

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3 SKY HIGH MTRCB GP 12.20, 2.45, 5.10, 7.35, 10.00
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD MTRCB PG-13 11.20, 2.00, 4.40, 7.20, 10.00

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5:00pm Ugetsu Monogatari (The Ugetsu Story) by Kenji Mizoguchi
8:00pm Kairo (Pulse) by Kiyoshi Kurosawa

SEPTEMBER 3 (Sat)
2:00pm Gakko no Kaidan (Haunted School) by Hideyuki Hirayama
5:00pm Hausu (House) by Nobuhiko Kobayashi
8:00pm Tomio: Rebirth by Shimizu Takashi

SEPTEMBER 4 (Sun)
2:00pm Kairo (Pulse) by Kiyoshi Kurosawa
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8:00pm Kaidan (Kwaidan) by Masaki Kobayashi

SEPTEMBER 5 (Mon)
2:00pm Ugetsu Monogatari (The Ugetsu Story) by Kenji Mizoguchi
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1 THE LONGEST YARD 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13
3 SKY HIGH 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 GP
4 THE CAVE PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME PG-13

Hermie, Putch lead 'em

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

KNOWN to his legions of racing fans as the owner of millionaire horse Wind Blown, Hermie Esguerra became the country's leading horse owner because he worked hard for it.

"I really work hard when I go into something," Esguerra said. "I study everything there is to know about a particular undertaking, be it in sports or business." He said he got seriously hooked on horseracing in 2001 when he acquired Wind Blown, then already a champion horse, from noted breeder Sandy Javier of Royal Maverick Farm.

With Wind Blown and some 60 other horses at that time, Esguerra found it necessary to set up his own farm. Pretty soon, he established the modern Herma Farm in Lipa City, where the phenomenal Wind Blown is now happily retired to stud.

"I have found fulfillment," Esguerra said.

Recently, Esguerra scored two consecutive major victories when Euro Bucks, a 3-year-old bay daughter of Account of Grace out of Leveret, won the 2005 Lakambini Stakes at the San Lazaro Leisure Park last Aug. 21, and Suppressed, a 4-year-old bay filly sired by Xaar out of Stifled, nosed out stable mate Ring Tone in the 2005 William Inglis-Australia Cup at the Santa Ana Park on Aug. 28.

As of July 2005, Esguerra is the country's leading horse owner, followed by another popular sportsman, Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, former president of the Marho (Metropolitan Race Horse Owners Association) and "godfather" of Philippine billiards.

According to the website of the Philippine Racing Commission (www.philracomgov.ph), Esguerra has participated in 282 races thus far, scoring 63 first places, 47 seconds, 49 third and 59 fourth while Puyat competed in 257 races, winning 44 first places, 33 second, 48 third and 41 fourth.

The other horse owners in the elite list are RD Javier, Bobby Yutadco, Antonio O. Floirendo Sr., Leandro Naval, Ed Moreno, David Lee, AG De Ubago and BP Niles.

"This augurs well for the Philippine horseracing industry," said Philracom chair Jaime Dilag, citing the support by the industry's direct players like the horse owners, jockeys, trainers, stakes race sponsors and, most of all, the racing public.

Speed Advantage, a 3-year-old bay colt by Royal Premier out of Trudy Capote (USA), emerged the No. 1 horse with midyear earnings of P3,815,166.79. Owned by Bobby Yutadco and bred by real estate mogul Toti Cariño, Speed Advantage won 12 out of 16 races, finished second three times and placed third only once.

2004 Horse of the Year Empire King, a 4-year-old chestnut colt sired by Perfect Halo out of Carta Nueve, took second place in the money race by pocketing P2,719,201.94. He is owned by David Lee.

Cover Girl, a 4-year-old bay filly by Khozaan out of Gallant Warrior, won P2,691,384.20 to take third place. She is owned and bred by C&H Enterprises.

Other horses in the top 10 are Hellfire (P2,097,119) and Real Spicy, an island-born 3-year-old chestnut colt by US Triple Crown two-leg winner Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale. Owned and bred by Hermie Esguerra, Real Spicy has earned P1,972,758. The others are: Sir Brendan Jean (P1,748,107), Thywillbedone (P1,698,152), Sound Offer (P1,675,589), Western Dancer (P1,626,187) and Royal Rose (P1,451,637).

The leading jockeys thus far are seven-time PSA Jockey of the Year Pat Dilema, who rode 134 winners, 93 second, 97 third and 84 fourth places in 594 races; Jonathan Hernandez, 131 first, 102 second, 74 third and 53 fourth and Jessie Guce, 106 first, 76 second, 72 third, and 62 fourth in 475 races.

SPORTSWATCH

Goal-in-One benefit golf on

A GOLF tournament meant to raise funds for the Philippine National Women's Football Association tees off starting at 7 a.m. today at the Alabang Country Club. Proceeds will go to the RP women's team preparing for the Southeast Asian Games competition here in November. Among the invited guests are former President Fidel V. Ramos, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez. The RP lady booters have had 10 international matches, winning seven of them, and is raising funds for additional international exposure.

70 fights up at Pasay today

MEMBERS of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) will unleash their new battlebirds in a 5-stag derby today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. More than 70 matches are on tap. Slightly favored are four cockers who emerged winners in the recent Annual Las Piñas 6-Stag derby: Benjie Lim, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Gerry Ramos and former Congressman Rudy Albano. But expected to bounce back are Patrick Antonio, Sonny Lagon, Rep. Butch Pichay, Rep. Nonoy Libanan and Rep. Jing Paras, Jet Fernando, Bong Villanueva, Tony Lasala, Boy de Roca, Dicky Lim, RQP Group, Rey Briones, among others. To be fielded today are stags banded by the NCA, GCAP and cockers groups affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB).

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10.00

2 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 VALIANT
1:40 3:40 5:40 7:40 9:40

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

9 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 EVIL EYES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 VALIANT 12:00 1:30 3:00
THE GREAT RAID 5:00 7:30 9:50

4 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

5 THE LONGEST YARD
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 THE CAVE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:20 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 EVIL EYES
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

2 THE CAVE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 D' ANOTHERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

6 SKY HIGH
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

7 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 EVIL EYES
3 CAMPUS GHOST STORIES
4 COACH CARTER

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1 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 THE LONGEST YARD

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1 SKY HIGH
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR

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1 ARAHAN
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 CRASH
4 BEWITCHED

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 SKY HIGH
4 EVIL EYES

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 THE LONGEST YARD
3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKY HIGH

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 D' ANOTHERS
2 SKY HIGH
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 BEWITCHED
5 VALIANT
6 THE GREAT RAID

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1 BEWITCHED
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 MGA PUSANG GALA
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 CRASH

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1 BEWITCHED
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 MGA PUSANG GALA
4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SKY HIGH	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	3 THE LONGEST YARD	4 THE CAVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SKY HIGH	2 THE LONGEST YARD	3 THX THE CAVE 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	5 MUST LOVE DOGS	6 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	7 SKELETON KEY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA ADVANCE SCREENING For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CAVE 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LONGEST YARD 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SKY HIGH 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	2 SKY HIGH		
	3 THE CAVE	4 MUST LOVE DOGS	5 THE LONGEST YARD	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE CAVE	2 MUST LOVE DOGS	3 WEDDING CRASHERS	4 YEAR OF THE YAO

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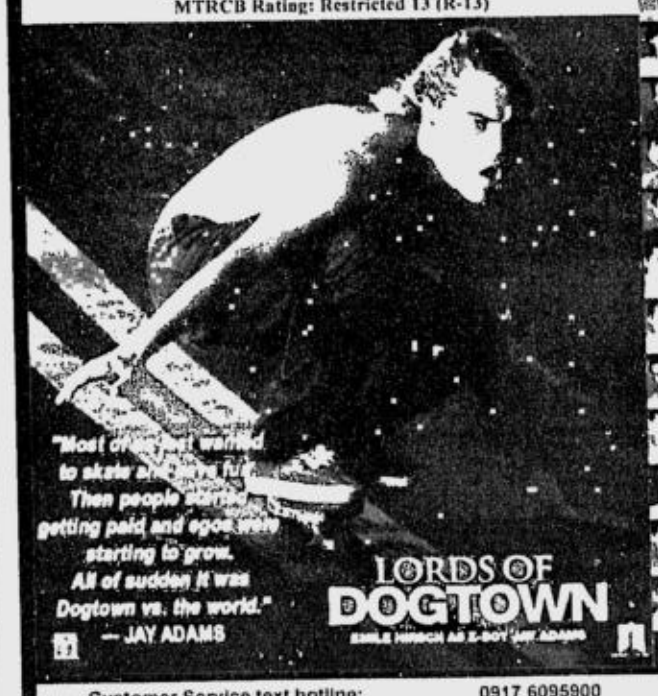

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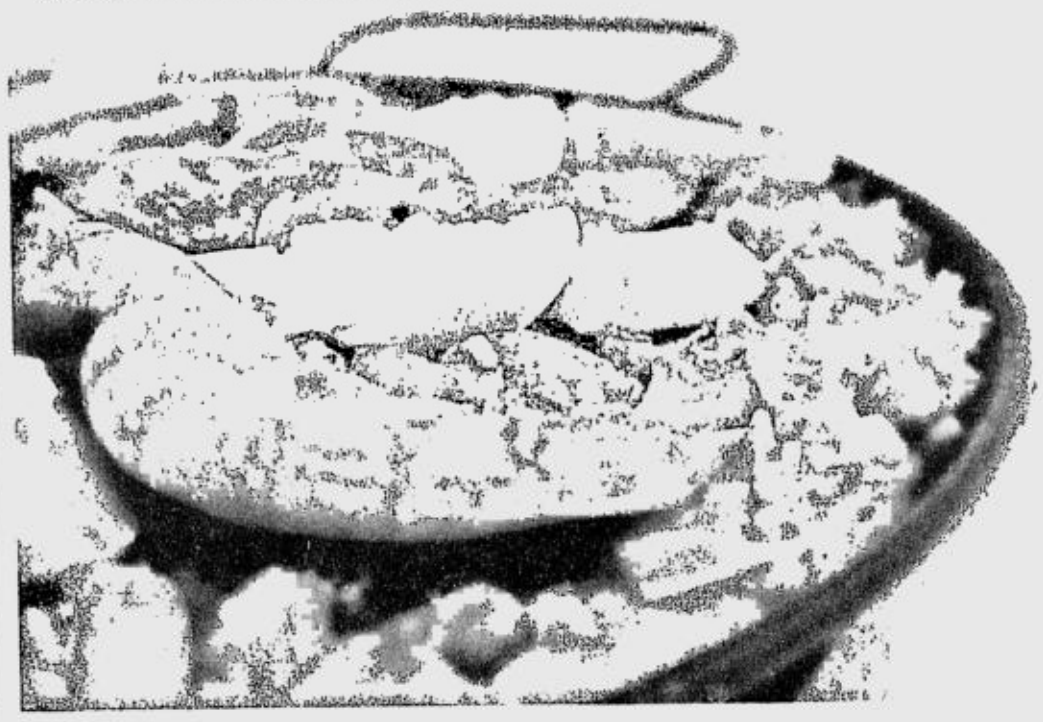
Flavors of Spain 2005

FUEGO Hotels & Properties, the management company of Taal Vista Hotel, Pearl Farm Beach Resort, Club Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego, in cooperation with the Economic and Commercial Office of the Spanish Embassy presents the "Flavors of Spain 2005: A Celebration of Spanish Cuisine". Now on its 3rd year, "Flavors of Spain" recaptures the taste and the gastronomic experience of a country so vibrantly alive and oozing with cultural treasures. Spanish cuisine is rich and varied, much like the country itself. Only the freshest ingredients are turned into delectable full dishes or small ones (tapas) using traditional cooking techniques passed on from generation to generation.



Leading the culinary team is chef Mikel Arriet Arruiz who hails from the Basque province of Spain, a region known for culinary excellence. Chef Mikel's line of expertise ranges from Italian, French, Basque, Catalan, and of course, Spanish cuisine.

Experience the "Flavors of Spain" at the breathtaking Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City in October; Pearl Farm Beach Resort in November; and at the exclusive Club Punta Fuego in December. Chef's recommended ala carte specials will be available daily as well as a good selection of favourite "tapas" and refreshing Sangria mixes. Avail of the "Wine Weekend" package at very reasonable rates. It includes overnight accommodations, a sumptuous Spanish buffet lunch and a wine seminar featuring the fine Rioja wines of Ramon Bilbao to cap off your afternoon.

"Flavors of Spain 2005" is also co-presented by Mastercard International. Major sponsors include Smart Infinity with media partners Whats on & Expat, Food Magazine and Crossover 105.1. For more details, please call Fuego Hotels at 750-1999; Taal Vista Hotel at 886-4325; Pearl Farm at 750-1894 and Club Punta Fuego at 751-4025 to 27 or simply log in at www.fuegohotels.com

Big fun marks Kadayawan at The Marco Polo Davao

GREAT fun and memorable experiences marked the traditional month-long Kadayawan celebration, especially at Davao City's first-class international luxury hotel, The Marco Polo Davao.

Over 400 guests recently celebrated Kadayawan at The Marco Polo Davao's pool terrace, where they sat on mats with pillows by the poolside as they watched the awesome performance of Session Road and Coffeebreak Island bands.

Known for their cool reggae music, the bands performed on a gigantic, colorful stage built atop the pool to suit the highly-spirited mood of the occasion.

Many of the guests treated themselves to free henna tattoo and face painting as Tricks Hair Gel raffled off a year's subscription of FHM magazines. Other prizes and freebies were also given away.

Tricks Hair Gel co-sponsored the event with K-Lite 103.5 and Sun Cellular.

The night's chilly breeze carried the aroma of Sunset Grill's sumptuous food, regularly offered on weekends at the pool terrace from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

This reggae sundown party, dubbed "Sunset Grill at the Polo", further reinforces the hotel's prestigious image as the venue for unforgettable events.

The party also ushered in the last quarter's calendar of equally exciting events such as the Asian Food Festival and the Mooncake Festival in September, the Mindanao's biggest and most elegant Bridal Fair and the much-awaited Halloween Party in October, and the various corporate and family celebrations for the Christmas season in December.

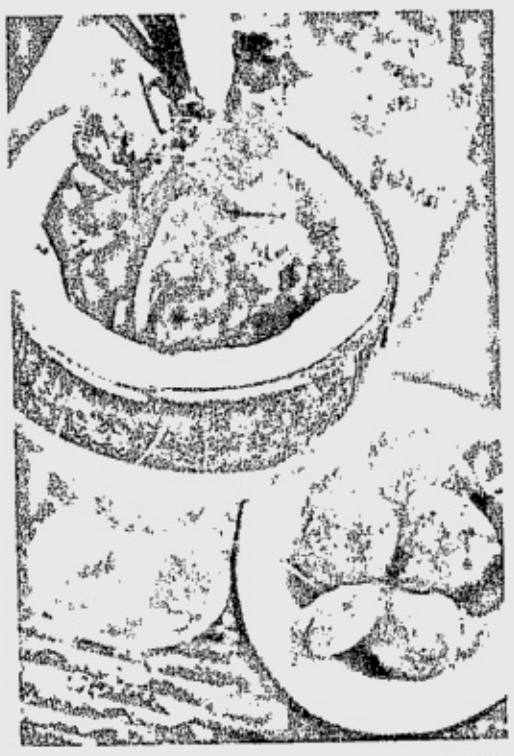
More information can be obtained from the Marco Polo Davao (tel: [63 82] 221-0888, fax: [63 82] 225-0111, or email: s&mdavao@marcopolohotels.com).

Feast on... It's fiesta time at Fiesta San Miguel

THIS September, Fiesta San Miguel adds new choices in their a la carte menus, as inspired by the lemongrass herb or tanglad in local dialect. Diners can either go for the 'Binagoongang Baboy na may Tagland at Gabi' (Pork belly braised with shrimp paste with diced taro root and essence of lemongrass) or the 'Ginataang Sugpo at Tahong' (Tiger prawns and New Zealand mussels with sliced local sausages in lemongrass coconut sauce) or choose the 'Skewered' food items (Sari-Saring Parilla) - a Filipino barbecue style comprised of meats or seafood served over a bed of grilled local vegetables.

Have a taste of "Rhythm n' Booze," the special drink offered for September. A concoction of brandy, triple sec, orange and mango juice with a dash of grenadine adds an extra kick to your freshly brewed San Miguel pale pilsen or light beer. An order of "Rhythm n' Booze" comes with a cuddly stuffed toy.

Plus, loosen up this September with some of the country's top entertainers. Go retro with 'Souled Out' every Monday. It's boys night out every Tuesdays with 'Mocha and Spin Art.' Wednesday is acoustic night with 'Infloence,' Thursdays is blast from the past night with 'Route '70,' Go R n' B with 'K24/7' on Fridays (Unity band to perform on Sept. 2 and 9), Heat up your Saturday night with sultry singer 'Criselda Volks with Katukayo.' Shows start at 9 p.m. at the mezzanine level of Fiesta San Miguel. Enjoy unlimited serving of freshly brewed San Miguel from 5:30 to 9 p.m. daily for only P330++.



ASIAN FUSION AT CAFE ASTORIA

Titillate your taste buds with exotic Asian cuisine known the world over. Cafe Astoria offers an Asian cornucopia of the finest dishes in dinner set menus creatively whipped by executive chef Ferdie Ramos. Set menus are priced at only P450++ per person. Cafe Astoria is located at the ground floor of Astoria Plaza at 15 J. Escriva Drive Ortigas Business District, Pasig City.

Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino launches newly refurbished function rooms

WATERFRONT Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan recently launched its newly renovated conference center. The affair dubbed as "Vantage Point": A different View, started off with a ribbon cutting by the Honorable City Mayor Arturo Radaza and Casino Filipino Mactan's new branch manager, Ernesto Francisco.

During the launching, the hotel presented its newest Boardroom called the Periwinkle which is well-equipped with state-of-the-art audio visual system which can accommodate up to 17 persons, especially designed for high-level meetings.

The conference center of the hotel consists of 3 big function rooms, which can be subdivided into 6 small function rooms as it is designed with collapsible walls. All function rooms are named after seashells - Periwinkle, Marginella and Gloria Maris.

The affair ended with a dinner buffet, which featured the new menus, prepared by the hotel's executive chef, which the guests enjoyed with the music of the Hardwood Band.

MEATY-CULOUS SIZZLERS SPICE UP THE BELLEVUE

Sizzling chucklog steaks with anchovies butter, mouth-watering lamb chops with mint jelly, luscious tenderloin tips in red wine gravy, chunky chicken kebabs and succulent porkchops with rosemary and garlic! Southern Metro Manila's center for choice cuisine, The Bellevue Hotel, brings out the meatlover in you with steaks that sizzle. For only P220++ to P530++, choose from among these scorching hot favorites that come with vegetables, potatoes and rice. Big portions for that big hunger! Call 771-8181 for inquiries.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Text ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

YOUR jaded columnist with Teri Hatcher—one of the stars of the hit series, "Desperate Housewives"—in the storybook town that's actually just in the backyard of Universal Studios.

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A whole day with the famous 'desperadas' of Wisteria Lane

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—Opener: **Joaquin Phoenix** better dust up his tux.

I just saw him as Johnny Cash, the late country music legend, in director **James Mangold**'s "Walk the Line." Joaquin's performance is the best in his career—his Johnny Cash is a complex, fascinating character—and it puts him as an early contender for the Best Actor race come awards season time.

To portray the famous "man in black," the actor learned to play the guitar and took voice lessons. He and **Reese Witherspoon**, as country star June Carter (she will also earn raves for her acting in this film), use their real singing voices. Both are surprisingly good crooners.

15 Emmy nods

I recently spent a day with those "Desperate Housewives" at the Universal Studios lot. No, I did not get in the hot tub with **Eva Longoria** (Gabrielle Solis).

But I'm getting ahead of the story. The invite came for interviews and lunch with those desperate women and a tour of Wisteria Lane, where the hot tub and garden romps of these ladies take place. How could I refuse a chance to do, er, a serious investigative column on the deep, dark truths behind the success of this dark comedic soap?

Following its win as best musical or comedy series at the Golden Globes in January, "Desperate Housewives" recently earned a whopping 15 nominations in the Emmy Awards.

Marc Cherry, a self-described gay Republican who is the show's creator and producer, gets the credit (or the blame, depending on your viewpoint) for the series' runaway success. Imagine a show rife with adulteries and other shenanigans that is a worldwide hit, even in these supposedly morally conscious times. Why, the show is set to be telecast even in China. But for a change, at least conservative Republicans can't blame those "Democrat liberals" for this one.

On the morning that I showed up on the series' soundstage, as I walked to get a cup of coffee, I heard little footsteps behind me. It was Eva, dashing to get a doughnut before the interviews began. Wait, I thought—this is Eva, the sultriest and most photogenic of them all? She was tiny!

In a jacket, white blouse, jeans and almost knee-high boots on this hot summer day, she was all covered up compared to her fellow housewives. But did you see her skimpy outfit at the recent MTV Video Music Awards? Her *abuela* back in Corpus Christi, Texas, must have dropped her jaws.

Anyway, let me answer the questions that "desperate" fans have been asking me ever since they heard that I went to Wisteria Lane. **Marcia Cross** (Bree Van De Kamp) has the loveliest face, while **Teri Hatcher** (Susan Mayer) has the best bod. But **Felicity Huffman** (Lynette Scavo), a fine actress on stage and screen as well, is the wittiest and most interesting interviewee.

We split into different groups for the round robin interviews organized by publicist **Lizza Flynn**, who told me that she is a Filipino-

A WHOLE/ A2-3

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Surfing at the Carpark!
Former Virra Mall tenants are temporarily housed at Annapolis Carpark.
The former Virra Mall is under renovation until December to provide better customer service. The usual computer, video, and technical gadget stores are currently relocated to Annapolis Carpark - covered and complete with air-conditioning for the convenience of shoppers. Because only at Greenhills Shopping Center can you surf the latest gadget finds even at the carpark!
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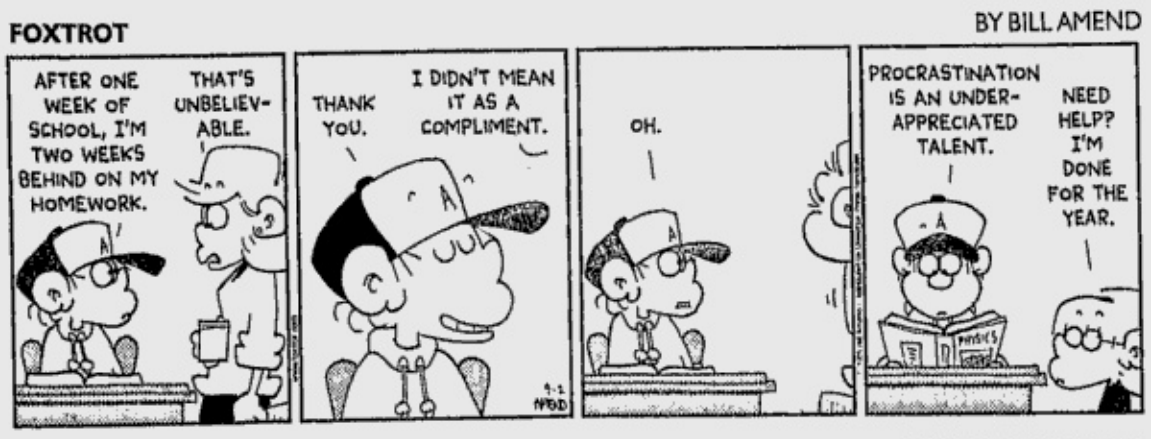


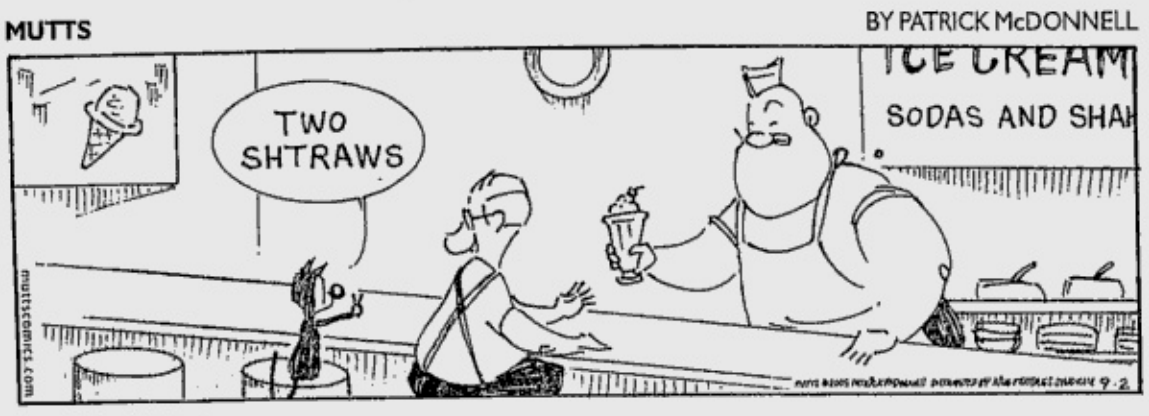
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

THE SIMPLE PLEASURES OF A PIRATED BOOK

SALAMIN BY DARWIN PEREZ

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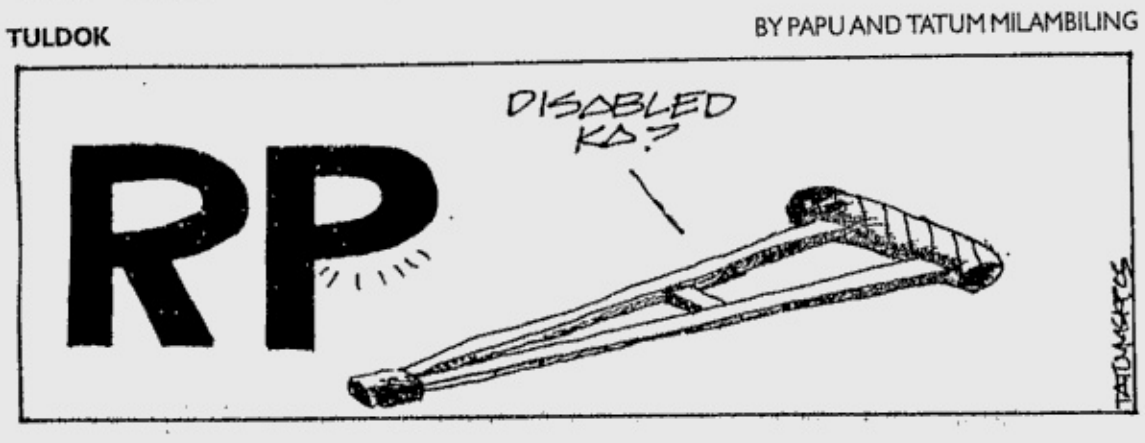


HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very down-to-earth. You're reliable and practical, especially about money and finances. Justice and fair play are important to you. You are always just and compassionate. To maintain your own self-respect, you live up to your responsibilities. The year ahead holds interesting choices for you. What will they be? **Birthdate of: Lennox Lewis, prizefighter; Keanu Reeves, actor; Salma Hayek, actress.**

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Delays in publishing and travel plans now come to a halt. Whatever you want to obtain with respect to publishing, the media and dealing with foreign countries can come about more easily now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The joint ownership of property and all matters connected with shared possessions will become more realistic in your eyes. Plans you've had for a long time now finally look doable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Changes you hoped to bring about in your closest friendships and partnerships might now start to take place. Big readjustments will be taking place. These changes will be for the better.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're prepared to work really hard now at your job. You have good ideas about how to improve things. You also see new applications for old material. (Clever you.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Matters related to love affairs, romantic partners, creative ventures, vacations and work with children all move forward more smoothly now. You have a better idea about what you want to achieve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Repairs and changes to where you live can take place now. Starting today, you want to make all kinds of improvements. You're trying to pull things together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your style in relating to others is changing slowly but surely. You want to get to the bottom of things. You want the facts; you want the truth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today your ruler, Pluto, goes forward after being retrograde for five months. This makes you feel that every aspect of your life is lighter and more goal-directed. (Great!)

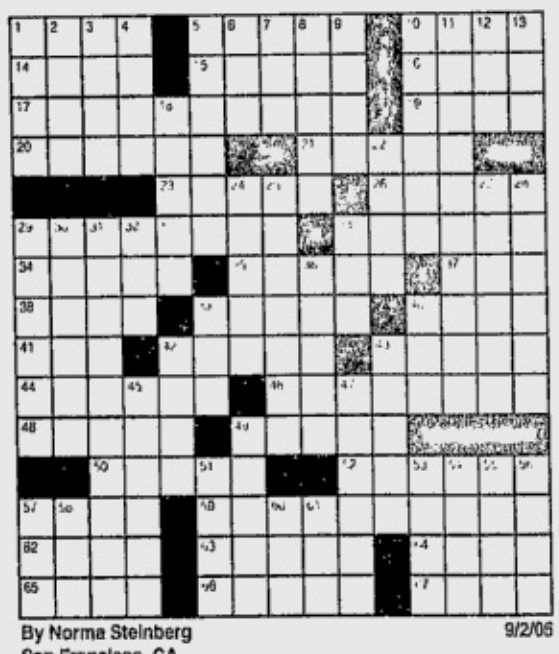
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): For the past five months, Pluto was retrograde in your sign. At a deep level, this caused you to reassess your closest partnerships and relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Do not let doubt hold you back. Two extremely favorable planets are now crossing the top of your chart. People now look at you with the respect you deserve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're changing your goals. Keep in mind that a simple reversal of goals is all it takes to turn a defeat into an advance. As information around us changes, so do our goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your relationships with authority figures, your boss and even your parents are changing. You're more ready to take your power now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
9/2/05

ACROSS
1 Brezhnev and Nixon's treaty
5 Make laugh
10 Org.
14 Nondairy spread
15 Hackneyed
16 Cowboy's prod
17 Southwestern house
19 Kilauea flow
20 Committees
21 Piercing light
23 Southpaw
26 Quarterback Rodney
29 Fred and Adele
33 Granular seasoning
34 Daughter of Ops
35 Prerecorded
37 ISS partner
38 Vichy very
39 __ firma
40 Flat, tangled masses
41 Tumor: suff.
42 Count of jazz
43 City in a WWI song
44 Greeted silently
46 Personality disorders
48 __ nous (just between us)
49 Food from heaven
50 Relation in degree
52 Stand firm
57 Blemish
59 Proper waist size
62 Coadjutant
63 Golfer Palmer
64 Haleakala Crater's island
65 Drink with the head
66 Yertle the Turtle creator
67 Writer's tools

DOWN
1 Cleansing agent
2 Actor Alan
3 Boxer Spinks
4 Hamlet option
5 Degrader
6 Fairy queen
7 Numero __
8 Woefully
9 Zeno's home
10 Experiencing REM
11 Extra fruit
12 4Runner or Highlander
13 Gun lobby
18 Immigration island
22 Made haste
24 Gala events
25 Russian empress
27 Examination subject
28 Expunges
29 Hart's autobio
30 Sunday speech
31 Tire store business
32 DDE's rival
33 Vegetable ball
36 Groom
39 Bit
40 Chairman __
42 Sugar source
43 Collision in London
45 Bureau part
47 Makes one
49 Watered silk
51 Levin and Gershwin
53 Ninny
54 "Dies __"
55 Flabbergast
56 __ won't hurt a bit
57 Word for the Beatles
58 Untruth
60 Wildebeest
61 That guy's

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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NOW with the whole gang—sexy Nicollette Sheridan, best-bod Teri Hatcher, tiny-but-sizzling Eva Longoria, lovely-face Marcia Cross, and the extremely smart Felicity Huffman.

A whole day with the famous . . .

From page A2-1

American. I chose to be in the set's blue room. Teri and her daughter, **Emerson**, baked brownies, a cake with pecans and other pastries for us the previous night. The actress who was Lois Lane in the hit 1990s TV series "Lois & Clark" made enough treats so each room had generous servings.

Slim, toned

These very slim and toned actresses actually ate some of these baked goodies as they spoke to us. Except Felicity who joked, "Teri also made them for us last year and it took me all year to work that weight off. I don't know how she eats it. It's there to sabotage us (laughter)." While Felicity told a colleague who works for a fashion magazine that her dress is by **Anna Sui**, she did not hesitate to say that she herself bought her necklace and earrings at Sears. Sears is like Shoemart. That's how down-to-earth this lady is.

On the other hand, **Nicollette Sheridan** (Edie Britt), the scheming Paige Matheson in the long-running early '80s drama series "Knots Landing," comically said in deliberately exaggerated French accent that her sexy white suit—the most revealing of them all—was by **Christian Dior**. No one could be more Hollywood-ish than Nicollette—her stepdad is the late **Telly "Kojak" Savalas**; she dated **Leif Garrett** and **Michael Bolton**; married and divorced **Harry Hamlin.**

Dead but...

Brenda Strong, the dead but still desperate housewife Mary Alice Young, is lovely and reminded me of **Lynda Carter**. She was paired with **Mark Moses** (Paul Young) for the round robins. The great black actress, **Alfre Woodard** (Betty Applewhite), whispered to us, as **Mehcad Brooks** (who plays her son, Matthew) was leaving our room that she thinks he will be the next important actor to watch.

The poor lady reporters were looking for **Jesse Metcalfe**, the gardener (John Rowland) who tends to Eva's character's bushes. But the gardener was not handy today. We had the plumber (Mike Delfino, played by **James Denton**), though, who teasingly told **Ricardo Antonio Chavira** (Carlos Solis), after the latter recited the wonderful things he does as a father: "Will you marry me?"

Roger Bart (George Williams), who came in late and joined James and Ricardo, said he has two kids, and explained, "I've had sex twice."

Richard Burgi (Karl Mayer), dapper in a summer suit complete with a white hankie on his breast pocket, was surprised to hear that we had already seen his forthcoming movie, "In Her Shoes.".

Completing the interviewee list were **Wisteria Lane**'s young residents: **Cody Kasch** (Zach Young), **Andrea Bowen** (Jenna Mayer), **Shawn Pyfrom** (Andrew Van De Kamp) and **Joy Lauren** (Danielle Van De Kamp).

Shuttle ride

With the interviews done, we rode on several shuttles for the trek up Wisteria Lane. We passed by trams carrying camera-toting tourists on the guided public tours of the Universal Studios. Teri, who rode with us, gave directions to the shuttle driver when he seemed to be unsure about the route. When we got there, even your jaded columnist was still a bit surprised that what looks like a storybook town on the TV screen is actually a series of facades—only houses right in the backyard of Universal Studios.

The housewives carried umbrellas as they gave us tours of their homes. Marcia and Nicollette shucked their dresses for something more comfortable —casual tops and pants. "This is my house," a parasol-carrying Eva declared as she led us into the house. "And that's my new car for the new episodes." It was a red Aston Martin DB9 convertible that was parked regally on Wisteria Lane. "You have a new car?!?" said one of her fellow housewives.

Eva's house is one of the few homes on the block that actually has full-scale interiors—or at least a mock-up foyer, living room and a dining room. A series of Andy Warhol-ish portraits of Eva were hung by the staircase that led nowhere.

Tram tours

At Nicollette's house, as all the ladies prepared for a group shot on a sofa, Felicity posed with her behind to the camera while Teri playfully patted it. On the ride back down to the soundstages for lunch, I learned that Wisteria Lane is open to the public tram tours only on weekends, when there are no tapings.

At lunch, Eva and Marcia joined our table. "Surely, you don't eat that much every day," I teased Marcia, as I pointed at her full plate. "No, I don't," she said with a sheepish smile.

On my way back to the parking lot, Nicollette waved at me from her black BMW, her white dog on the passenger seat. They were off to see a holistic vet for the dog's rashes. Yes, a holistic animal healer does exist, according to Nicollette. Only in Hollywood, folks, only in Hollywood.

Not a musical

Speaking of songs, despite its title, "9 Songs" is not a musical. Described by the LA Times as "the most sexually explicit theatrical feature a mainstream director has ever made," **Michael Winterbottom**'s film shows the leads, **Kieran O'Brien** and **Margo Stilley**, having actual, graphic sex.

Courtney's secret

Finally, LA's Daily News quotes embattled **Courtney Love**, who has gained weight after a court-ordered drug rehab on why those actresses are suddenly stick-thin: "I was really, really thin because of what I was doing. When all these little teenyboppers finally go into rehab, they're going to get fat, too."

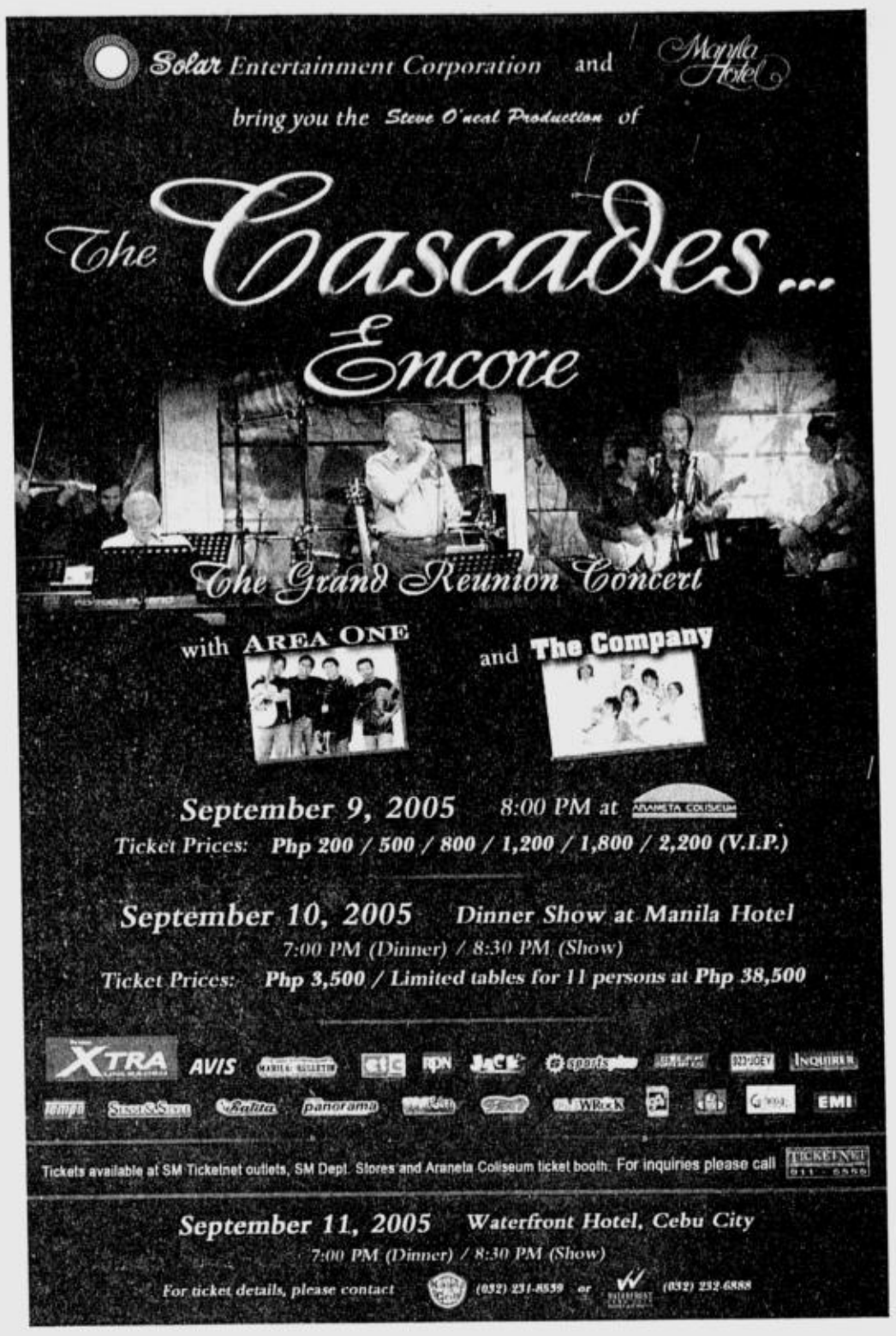
Feldman as Douglas

Corey Feldman ("The Goonies," "Stand By Me") plays the screen role of **Michael Douglas**, jutting chin and all, in a current off-Broadway satire of the soooo '80s movie, "Fatal Attraction." Titled "Fatal Attraction: A Greek Tragedy," the play that "will not be ignored," features **Alana McNair** channeling **Glenn Close**'s frightfully big, curly hair and a boiled bunny dance/dream sequence, not to mention sex by the... you know where if you've seen this thriller movie.

More on Glenn—on the red carpet at the Golden Globes last January, she told me that she wanted to reprise her Norma Desmond role in the film version of **Andrew Lloyd Weber**'s "Sunset Boulevard." It's official—she got the role for which she won a Tony in the Broadway version. "Sunset" follows the unusual path of the upcoming "The Producers"—first came the movie, then the musical version of the film and finally, a movie (again), this time of the musical version.

Also eagerly anticipated is the film version of "Rent," with **Rosario Dawson**, due this November. Next year, we'll see "Dreamgirls" onscreen with **Beyonce Knowles** as diva Deena, **Jamie Foxx** as the manager and **Eddie Murphy** as the performer who gives the girls their first break. No word yet as to who gets to play Effie and (hopefully) blast the screen with her version of the musical's show-stopping "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)



Dino: Kim has not moved on

GUEVARRA says their son "understands."

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I DON'T think it's the right time to initiate legal separation proceedings. Kim has not moved on. I can see that she's still bitter."

That was actor Dino Guevarra talking to INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday about former actress Kim de los Santos, his partner of seven years. Kim fled to the United States last December following a messy and very public breakup.

"A man recovers quickly," Dino said. "I got to watch Kim's most recent TV interview, and her body language showed she's not over it."

In that interview on the show biz talk program "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN, Kim said she wanted their marriage annulled, but stressed that her husband should spend for it.

"I also want us to be at least legally separated," Dino said. "But I think it's better if she files for divorce, which is easier, quicker, and less expensive than annulment. She's an American citizen, anyway. I'll know that she's moved on if she [does that]."

KIM, slimmer and actually calmer, during her US interview with Boy Abunda

In any case, Dino continued, he's "busy with a lot of things" right now. "Maybe four months or a year from now, we'll both be ready."

Young romance

Kim and Dino met in the early 1990s as cast members of GMA 7's teen series, "TGIS." In November 2004, on nationwide television, a sobbing Kim accused her husband of womanizing and abusing her verbally and physically.

"The Buzz" hosts Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda reportedly bought Kim's plane ticket to the US.

Dino said he and his son, Ethan, were coping well. "In the first three months [after Kim left], there were days when I felt lonely. I missed her. Now, I'm OK. My son didn't ask questions. He's only 6 years old, but—I don't know why—he understands. I didn't have to explain anything to him."

In an earlier interview with INQUIRER, Dino's mother, Sonia Ferreros, said Kim had run to her a few days before the couple's last and biggest fight. Sonia said she advised Kim to be patient.

"My mom adores Kim. But she also wants me to be happy," said Dino. "I have asked Mommy to move in with me."

Dino is in the cast of GMA 7's "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," which is celebrating its month-long anniversary starting Sept. 6. He is also seen on the Kapuso network's hit *telefantasya*, "Encantadia."

'Symphony of the Heart'

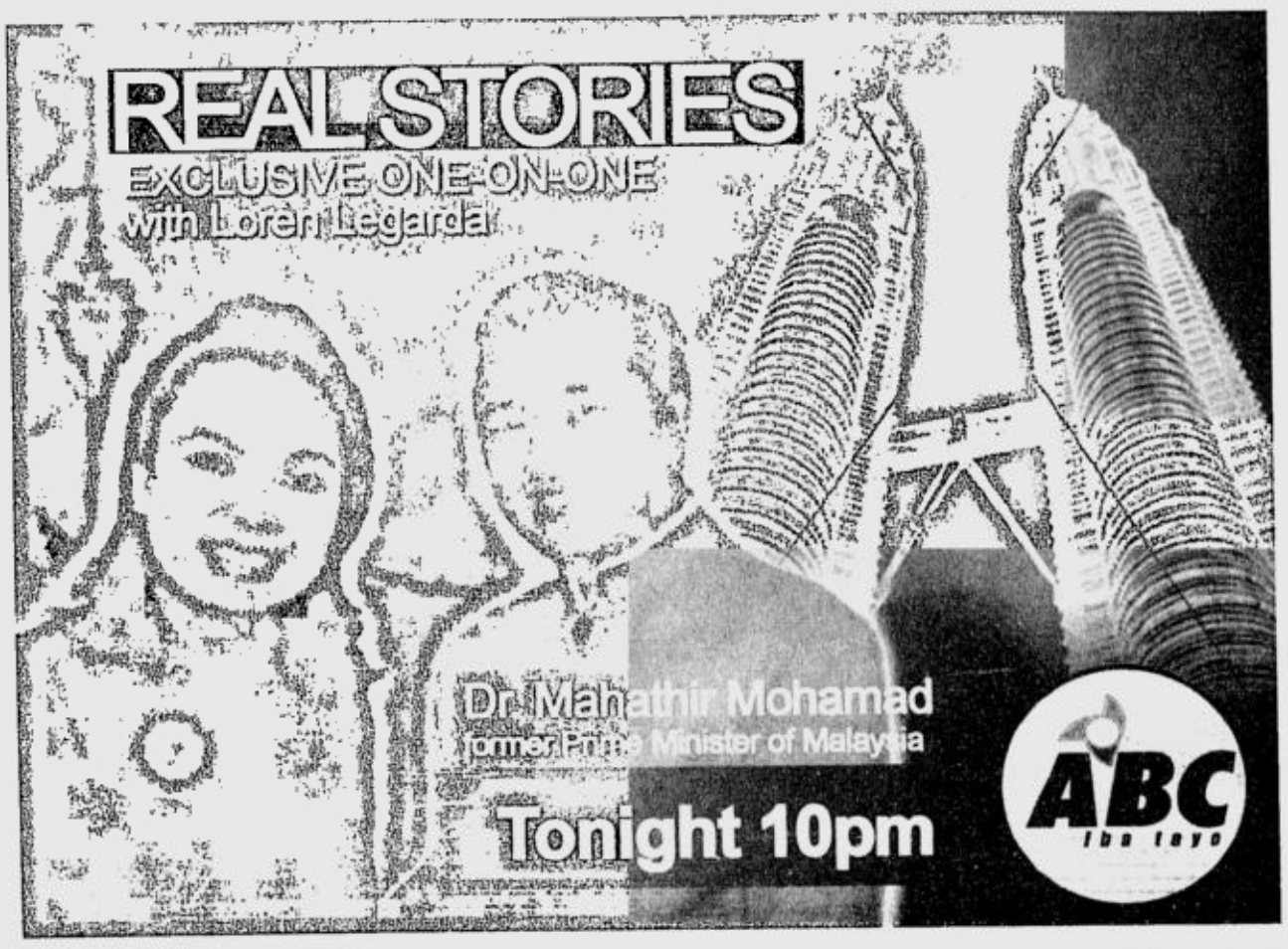
GARY Valenciano's "Symphony of the Heart" concert tonight at the Araneta Coliseum stars Mr. Pure Energy for the first time with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

SHOW TIME

Show starts at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 911-5555, 413-9161, or 725-1937.

***

Jeffrey Hidalgo takes his album mall tour to SM San Lazaro today at 4 p.m.



ROUNDUP

De-stressing in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—He ate buffalo wings. He took a speedboat to a luxury villa on a manmade island. He buzzed around the Emirate with a race car driver and a prince.

In contrast to the Michael Jackson cleared of child abuse charges in June, the "King of Pop" appeared relaxed and friendly during his ongoing visit to this Gulf sheikdom.

The 47-year-old performer was even been spotted looking over some of the world's most audacious real estate developments in flashy Dubai.

"He likes it here," said Mohammed Bin Sulayem, the champion rally driver who escorted Jackson on sightseeing tours, alongside their mutual friend, Sheik Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, son of Bahrain's king.

Local newspapers are flush with speculative articles about the singer taking up residence.

"I'm sure he won't have a problem finding something in Dubai," Bin Sulayem said. *AP*

JACKSON with Bin Sulayem beside him REUTERS

THE HOSTS of "MUP"

Kapamilya Christmas

ABS-CBN'S countdown to Christmas officially started on "Magandang Umaga Pilipinas" yesterday. MUP now airs a daily dose of holiday specials, and is also launching the "M Up" concert series tomorrow. Side A takes center stage, performing their biggest hits.

Joross, Roxanne in 'Maalaala'

JOROSS Gamboa and Roxanne Guinoo star in tonight's "Maalaala Mo Kaya?" on Channel 2. The episode, about taking a chance on young love, also stars William Lorenzo, Debraliz, Theo Vernados and Tanya Gomez. Charo Santos-Concio hosts the weekly drama series.

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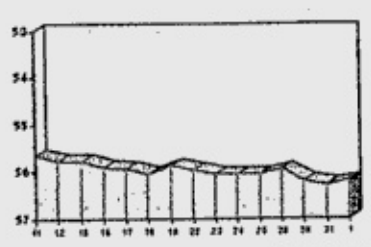

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 1, 2005

¥ 110.80 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 1, 2005

GOLD: $435.40-435.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 1, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

SHARE prices closed 0.23 percent higher yesterday as investors opted to take profits ahead of a Supreme Court ruling on crucial tax legislation, dealers said.

They said an overnight gain on Wall Street and a modest retreat in oil prices also helped in the technical recovery. There was also renewed interest in mining issues after government announced it has opened exploration sites for public bidding.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index put on 4.51 points at 1,941.41. It traded between 1,935.92 and 1,947.10.

Volume reached 1.8 billion shares worth P637.39 million.

Gainers outnumbered losers 45 to 19, while 53 stocks ended unchanged.

The Philippine currency averaged at P56.21 to the dollar at mid-day trade. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktales: Mike's troubled cousins /B3

P25B worth of ODA projects OKd /B4

CAP files for rehabilitation

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. yesterday filed a petition for rehabilitation with the Makati Regional Trial Court, joining other pre-need firms in similar financial straits.

But as CAP moved to find refuge with the local court, the Makati RTC junked its motion to dismiss a class suit its plan holders filed against CAP.

The plan holders claimed CAP had committed fraud.

Gilbert Reyes, senior partner at Poblador, Bautista & Reyes law offices, told INQUIRER that CAP went to court to keep its business going.

Reyes said CAP officials were prompted to file for rehabilitation after reports began circulating that the Securities and Exchange Commission was seriously considering taking over management of the pre-need firm.

Reyes said CAP officials were afraid that the takeover would result in the liquidation of the company.

"It was becoming increasingly difficult to work out a solution without prejudicing the interest of the plan holders," Reyes said. "The whole thesis of this rehabilitation plan is we don't want to end CAP (as a business)."

CAP's licenses to operate and sell plans were suspended in August 2004. It has over 700,000 plan holders.

It is the biggest pre-need firm and the third—after Pacific Plans and Platinum Plans—to file for rehabilitation.

Based on its petition, CAP asked to be allowed to rehabilitate its business in view of its "impending inability to service its debts as they fall due, and because, at present, its assets are not sufficient to cover its liabilities."

But CAP believes that "its current financial condition will change with the institution of some changes in its organization, policies, strategies, operations and finances" under a so-called business development plan.

Under its rehabilitation plan, CAP plans to build up its equity and liquidity and meet projected cash requirements.

It also plans to build up its assets and the liquidity of its trust fund to meet maturing obligations.

CAP expects equity infusion from foreign and local sources, namely:

- A $20-million equity infusion, where the new investor will give $4 million a year over a five-year period, beginning in 2006;

CAP/ B3

Australia bans Selecta ice cream

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE AUSTRALIAN government has imposed an indefinite ban on Philippine-made Selecta ice cream products, citing the incidence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the country's livestock.

The decision was made by Australian quarantine officials after meeting with Philippine trade and agriculture officials, according to Salvador Salacup, agriculture assistant secretary.

Other local ice cream manufacturers such Magnolia Products, a subsidiary of San Miguel Foods Inc., has not penetrated the Australian market but has been exporting to the Middle East and other neighboring Asian countries, general manager Mayo Alcon said in a separate interview.

Salacup yesterday said the Australian Quarantine Service made the decision after it reclassified Selecta ice cream as a dairy product. It was previously classified as a confectionery.

"According to our agriculture attaché to Australia, Araceli Albarece, this reclassification led Australian officials to conclude that the ban should be imposed because the product's main ingredients are derived from imported and local milk," Salacup explained.

He said that until the country has fully contained the incidence of FMD, the Philippines would not be able to export dairy products to Australia. The DA hopes to resolve the issue by end-December.

Selecta Walls Inc. is a subsidiary of Unilever Philippines Inc.

ICE CREAM reclassified as dairy product

'ISM has no one to blame but itself'

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Conclusion)

THE SPANKING new campus of International School Manila (ISM) in Taguig is only three days away from being auctioned off unless the school's management and its teachers' union reach a compromise agreement soon.

The operators of the country's premiere school for children of expatriate businessmen, diplomats, and the Filipino elite are up against 167 locally hired teachers who were, for a time, discriminated against by being paid lower wages than their foreign hired counterparts.

SPECIAL REPORT

Representatives of ISM's management yesterday were unavailable for comment as they undertook last ditch efforts to stave off the Labor Department's auction on Monday.

However, ISM president Robert Ayers issued a statement through the school's publicist, saying "ISM will abide by what the Supreme Court decides."

He held out hope that the court will still rule against the payment of back wages, despite ISM's setback before the Labor Department.

"We will have to wait for that because the [Supreme Court's] decision is not clear about the date of effectivity," Ayers said. "There is a pending motion from the union precisely to clarify that."

On the other hand, the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE) yesterday signified its willingness to negotiate the issue of back wages, citing the education of

ISM/ B5

The Ford Road Show 2005. September 2-4, 2005, Glorietta Activity Center. Now's your chance to see the latest Ford vehicles on display! This weekend, catch the Ford Focus, Ford Explorer, Ford Expedition, Ford Escape, Ford Ranger, Ford Everest and Chateau Wagon at the Glorietta Activity Center and know that there's a Ford for every road you travel. See you there!

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THE OPPOSITION'S CULTURE OF MALEVOLENCE

The opposition is quite willing to throw the entire country to the dogs in pursuit of its one consuming passion--to unset President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.
Most of them sympathetic to disgraced presidents Marcos and Estrada--plunderers both and rightfully overthrown by an enraged Filipino nation--and for now shamelessly joining forces with the Left out of sheer convenience, those in the opposition have long ago abdicated their duty to be legitimate "fiscalizers" of the administration, and have instead turned themselves into a bunch of callous desperados out to grab power any way they can. Even their spurious willingness to put themselves under the law is but a ploy to ultimately subvert that very law: Watch their behavior during the impeachment process.

Unfortunately for the opposition, they have neither quantity nor quality on their side.
They are few in number in both houses of Congress. Only a handful of provincial governors, town city mayors, and other local government officials share their morbid obsession to remove President Gloria. The crowd that they manage to gather together in their repeated attempts to whip up a a lynch-mob is always less in number than what their celebrity crowd-drawers--largely low-caliber, aging movie bit players--might attract if they romped naked on stage. Their line up of "star" witnesses--whether of the wire-tapping or jueteng category--are precisely the type of people you wouldn't want to be neighbors to. And when they succeed at all in luring administration officials to cross over their side, they only bag those with a world-class gift for wrapping genuine betrayal in bogus nationalism. Birds of a feather they are--assuming vultares are birds, that is.

President Arroyo is dead right in choosing to simply work harder as her preferred mode of responding to her detractors gone berserk.
Small in number as they may be, those in the opposition nonetheless have power to inflict widespread injury to the nation, the way a handful of terrorists can. Thus far they have succeeded in ruining the economy, in turning the Philippine Congress into a veritable madhouse, and in rousing the Filipino people to new heights of cynicism and despondency. But there is now light at the end of the tunnel, and the contrast between the benevolent Arroyo administration and the malevolent opposition is becoming more and more stark. We can only hope the opposition will soon make the mistake of posing for a group picture--for everyone to see that after all they consist of Marcos minions that helped perpetuate the dictator in power, of Estrada lackeys that only less than a decade ago were wallowing in the largesse thrown their way by the imprisoned plunderer, of Leftists whose true agenda in joining the government is to topple it at first instance, of disgrantled politicians with a price-tag for their allegiance, and of those who very simply are juvenille in body or in mind.

GLORIA, HINDI KA NAG-IISA!
Madame President, we join those who, inspired by your clear-sighted vision for the country and awed by your heroic perseverance and strength, are now voicing out their support for you. We vow that--unlike the noisy opposition--our pledge of support is founded less on words and more on our ability and readiness to mobilize into action. With you we will uphold the rule of law, and combat those intent on sowing disorder as a prelude to overthrowing your government. We heed your call to rally behind the Constitution--now seriously threated by the opposition's determination to set it aside whenever it gets in their way, as they so vividly demonstrate during the impeachment process.

THE OPPOSITION IS NOW PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1.
LET EVERY CITIZEN DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

September 1, 2005.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Mike's troubled cousins

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

WHILE Mike Arroyo has been finding succor in the United States in these toxic times, the First Gentleman's cousin, Carlos Araneta, has been taking pains to avoid the US shores, more particularly, the state of Delaware.

Araneta, who controls the LBC Group, is being ordered to pay $45,500 in attorney's fees by the Court of Chancery of Delaware, after the court ruled that Araneta and top LBC executives "violated their obligations to the court and counsel."

"Araneta engaged in related patterns of misrepresentation which ... demonstrated a lack of respect for the judicial process," the Delaware court said, giving the mestizo businessman until Sept. 16 to pay the fees.

The Delaware action stemmed from a suit filed by the ATR Kim Eng Group, which owns 10 percent of LBC Global, alleging disappearance of substantial assets of the Delaware-listed company.

Araneta's judicial intransigence seems odd, given that a subsidiary of the ATR Kim Eng Group, the investment house ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, is managed no less by President Arroyo's younger brother, Diosdado "Boboy" Macapagal Jr.

Closer to home, another Araneta cousin, Benito Araneta, the Erap-holdover chair of the sequestered Philcomsat Holdings, took out in 2000 a total of P390 million in advances—P265 million of which is interest-free—on the strength of an executive committee, but not board, approval from the two Philcomsat companies.

To settle the long overdue financial obligations, Araneta is instead proposing a debt-to-equity swap, using a seven-hectare property in Alabang, controlled by another Araneta cousin, Antonio Araneta, as payment.

There is a hitch to the swap proposal. At the proposed valuation of the Alabang property, the Aranetas could even end up owning Philcomsat.

PAL's good + bad news

FIRST, the bad news.

Philippine Airlines is seeking government approval to impose higher fuel surcharges on fares to its international destinations, in view of the soaring oil prices.

For its popular US and Canada routes, the roundtrip fare would go up by $49 with the surcharge.

The good news is that PAL has decided not to follow the Northwest and Continental decision to reduce economy class luggage allowance to 50 pounds each for two pieces of checked-in baggage.

That means those groaning *balikbayan* boxes that choke every PAL flight from the West Coast will remain at 70 pounds each.

Mandarin menu, Cubao prices

THE MANDARIN Oriental is today opening a café at the new Gateway Mall in Cubao, right next to the LRT station, promising to deliver the same luxury hotel standards in food and dining experience, but without the Makati price bite.

According to hotel spokesperson Charisse Chuidian, the 11 a.m.-9 p.m. café would serve deli food and light meals at 20 to 30 percent off the Makati price tags.

In answer to market demand, the café will also serve Filipino *merienda* fare like *bibingka, puto bumbong* and *ginataang halo-halo*, aside from the Spanish comfort food in these rainy days, *churros con chocolate*.

Sightings

- MARCOS-ERA Immigration Commissioner Edmundo Reyes Sr. apologizing to his 365 Club colleagues for his congressman-son Edmundo Jr. having signed the impeachment complaint, despite Pagcor having rented all these years the Reyes building, the former Shell House, on Roxas Boulevard.
- A fragile-looking GMA aide Joey Rufino barely touching his lunch at the Milky Way Wednesday, his first restaurant outing since being discharged from the hospital.
- Resigned Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima holding a hush-hush meeting with Greggy Araneta at a poolside cogon hut at the Manila Polo Club.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER Trade Secretary Juan Santos has disengaged himself from the partisan politics of the "Hyatt 10" group, and that was why he begged off from attending the group's Tuesday press conference and becoming a prop to "Dinky" Soliman's lachrymal performance.

Instead, the former Nestlé Philippines CEO would rather quietly concentrate on his new mission chairing the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

INSULAR LIFE	UNIT PRICES (in Php)	
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Q&A:

1. What are Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs)?

The RTBs are part of the government's savings mobilization program designed to make government securities available to retail investors, hence, the name Retail Treasury Bonds. It is issued by the Republic of the Philippines through the Bureau of the Treasury (the "BTr"). This issue of the RTBs will have a maturity of 5 years. Interest or coupon payments will be paid quarterly compared to the regular Treasury Bonds which are paid semi-annually.

2. Why invest in RTBs?

The RTBs are designed to provide a safe, high-yielding and affordable savings instrument.

RTBs are safe. They are considered practically risk-free because they constitute the direct, unconditional and general obligation of the Republic of the Philippines.

RTBs are high-yielding. Interest rates are superior to other investments.

RTBs are affordable. The minimum denomination is only P5,000 and in multiples of P5,000 thereafter.

3. Who can purchase the RTBs?

The RTBs aim to cater to retail investors such as individuals and corporations who are looking for a safe, affordable and high-yielding investment for their savings.

4. Where and when can an investor purchase RTBs?

The RTBs will be sold to the public during the Public Offering (PO) which is scheduled from August 31 to September 6, 2005. The PO is the designated period given to the public to subscribe to the RTBs through the Issue Managers (BPI Capital Corporation, Development Bank of the Philippines, First Metro Investment Corporation, Land Bank of the Philippines) and the other Dealers. Since only a limited amount of RTBs shall be issued, the BTr has the option to shorten the PO period. Thus it will accept subscriptions for RTBs on a "first-come-first-serve basis".

The terms and conditions applicable to the RTBs as well as copies of the complete documentation will be made available during the PO by each of the Issue Managers and Dealers.

After the PO, investors may still purchase the RTBs in the secondary market at prevailing market rates.

5. How does an investor participate in the PO?

Investors may purchase the RTBs over the counter from the Dealer nearest them, subject to the documentary and minimum deposit requirements of each Dealer. Payment procedures for investment in RTBs may vary from one Dealer to another.

In case investors do not have an existing deposit account with a Dealer, they will be required to open a peso deposit account or designate an existing peso account where interest payment and principal redemption of the RTBs will be credited.

6. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?

The RTBs are considered having the least credit-risk because they represent the direct and unconditional obligation of the government thereby enjoying the highest certainty of payment. The yield is assured if the investor holds on to the bond until maturity. However, if an investor opts to sell the RTBs in the secondary market prior to its maturity, then it will be subject to interest rate risk depending on the prevailing market rate at the time the RTBs are sold in the secondary market.

7. What is an investor's proof of ownership?

The Dealers will sell the RTBs to individuals and other investors on a non-recourse basis, documented through confirmations of outright sale (the "Confirmations of Sale") issued by the Dealer in favor of the investor. Investors may pick up these Confirmations of Sale a few days after the close of the PO from the offices of the Dealer.

No certificate will be issued to investors as ownership by individuals and other investors will be registered electronically under the BTr's Registry of Scripless Securities.

8. Can an investor sell his investment in the RTBs after the Issue Date?

RTBs are considered marketable securities and have historically enjoyed a secondary market. The Dealer from whom the RTBs were purchased may assist the investor, on a best-efforts basis, in selling the RTBs in the secondary market at prevailing market rates.

9. Are there tax-free RTBs?

Interest income on RTBs is subject to the 20% final withholding tax. Only tax-exempt institutions duly-accredited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue are exempt from payment of the 20% final withholding tax.

CAP files for rehabilitation

From page B1

- Another $100-million infusion in CAP's equity—additional contributions to its trust fund in 2006 and 2007;
- The investment of Green Circle Properties and Resources, Inc. and Green Square Properties Inc. in the form of a 3,000-hectare property valued at P6 billion.

To meet its projected cash flow requirements for 2005 to 2012, CAP intends to sell its share in subsidiaries and affiliates. The sale of its interests in the companies would generate an estimated P307 million in 2005 and 2006.

It also plans to sell its investments in real estate and golf shares, which could generate P46 million.

In addition, the sale of its real property investments in Naic and Tanza, both in Cavite, would also generate an additional P170 million in 2005 and 2006.

CAP would also call in the unpaid subscription of its shareholders amounting to P43 million.

CAP also intends to secure additional loans from its directors in the amount of P155 million to address its temporary cash flow problem for 2006 and 2007.

CAP expects to service all plan holders who will be availing of benefits during its rehabilitation period.

However, CAP proposes to pay only 100 percent of the tuition (pegged on the tuition rates for schoolyear 2004-2005), exclusive of other standard fees. Tuition constitute about 70 percent of CAP's obligations to holders of traditional plans.

For holders of traditional plans, maturing after 2012, CAP proposes the payment of 100 percent tuition, again exclusive of standard fees, at levels projected for the years in which the plan will mature.

CAP will seek a deferment of the payment of standard fees to all holders of traditional plans.

These standard fees, however, will be scheduled for payment after 2012, when fund surpluses are actually generated following the successful implementation of its business development plan.

For holders of fixed value plans, CAP expects to pay the full amount of the benefits on maturity. CAP will still pay 100 percent of the Gross Price of each plan (traditional and fixed) at the time specified in each contract.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week August 30, 2005	Last Week August 23, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.27089	1.26736
Managed Fund - Peso	1.37271	1.36944
Growth Fund - Peso	1.02381	1.02380
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1325	1.1337

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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As we celebrate our 10th year in the Philippines, we pause to express our gratitude to our valued clients and all our corporate executive friends for trusting us through the decade.

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*Based on search assignments for 10 years: Sept. 1995 - Aug. 2005

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DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY

P25B worth of ODA projects OKd

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has approved the implementation of P25.6 billion worth of official development assistance projects intended to boost key industries, particularly information technology, tourism and healthcare.

The projects will be implemented following the Neda's call for government to promote other potentially lucrative industries while the electronics sector, the country's key dollar earner, is faced with weakening global demand.

"We should now seriously look at diversifying, and to lessen dependence on the electronics industry," Neda Director General Augusto Santos said earlier. Developing other sectors is vital to attracting foreign investments which will compensate for the dwindling earnings of the electronics industry, he said.

Of the P25.6 billion, P20 billion was earmarked for the Industry Support Loan Program (ISLP), a credit facility for businessmen venturing into information technology, telecommunications, manufacturing, utilities, construction, tourism, health care and transportation.

The facility will be made available through the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), while funding will come from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

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Special Events Schedule

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005 Friday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on " Environmental Health". Speaker: Ms. Chinchin Gutierrez
by Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on "Ethical Issues and Concerns in Collection and Development Management"
by Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc. & Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Designing Souvenirs for Weddings, Birthdays, and Other Occasions
by The Thought Factory (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Clay Molding (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting
by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
WTC Lobby
The Making of Techniques in Digital Illustration
by Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M
Function Room A
Symposium: Can a Reproduction Rights Organization (RRO) Curb Illegal Photocopying in the Philippines?
by The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organization & The Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Discover and Explore: "A Must Classroom Reality in Science Literacy"
A product seminar/workshop for Discovery Channel School, Resource Speaker: Charmaine Nicdao-Ramos,
by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Story Telling and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Turning Ordinary Prints into Canvas Works of Art (TTF)

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Balloon Art Workshop
by Lollipop Safety Balloons Center (LSBC)
Admission Fee: Php 25

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Paper Bag Puppets-Making Workshop
by Museo Pambata (MP)

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Seminar on "Introduction to Singapore's Elementary Education Curriculum and Textbooks"
by Edensch International, Inc.

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation
by Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Portfolio Show (INK)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM): Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part 2 (BDAP)

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline
2005 Grand Book Launch
by OMF Literature, Inc

SEPTEMBER 3, 2005 Saturday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Book Launching: Learning to Live and Love, Learning to Love, Love @ Sex Pag-Usapan Natin, Educational Guidance in Human Love, The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality
by Word & Life Publication

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Story Telling Activity

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 2
Stone Printing: Paperweights and Desk Signs (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory
by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Storytelling Activity

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Lego Early Childhood/HCA Seminar
by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: Nobela at Mga Maikling Kuwento ni Edgar Reyes, Introduction to Economic Botany
Pythopharmacology-Phytotherapy by Dielmar J. Rummel, Language Proficiency Training for Call Centers
by C & E Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Crystal Lamination: Trinket Boxes (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M
Playstreet Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Lego Robotics Demonstration
by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Dianetics Lecture
by New Era Publications International Aps

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: ANI 31 Metaphors of Love (Talinghaga ng Puso), GROOVY: The Colors of Pacita Abad In DVD
by Cultural Center of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Hands-on-Activity (Discovery Channel Interactive)
by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M
Function Room B
Book Launching of "LEGACY: One Man to Another, Exhortations to the Men of Today from Over 50 Respected Christian Leaders and Influencers"
by Church Strengthening Ministry

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005 Sunday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Crystallized Photo Frames and Magnetic Message Holders (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory
by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Print Lifting Images to Cotton Drink Coasters/ Mats (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet
Clay Moulding, Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Purpose of Life, Resurrection and Hereafter in Islam According to Qur'an and Risale-i Nur
by Eternal Publications Trading

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
"Meditations & Music Reflections"
Authors accompanied by invited musicians
by Church Strengthening Ministry

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline
National Book Awards
by Manila Critics Circle (by invitation only)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

Co-presented by:

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1. Peter Chee - Malaysia
2. Florence Ho - Macau
3. Mohammed T. Al-Sellemi - Saudi Arabia
4. Imee Centeno - Philippines

Plenary Speakers

Pete Weaver - SVP for Leadership Solutions& Chief Learning Officer, DDI (US)
Dr. Vinayshil Gautam - Faculty, Dept. of Mgnt. Studies, Indian Institute of Technology (India)
Dr. James Y. Lin - Pres. /CEO. Quality Lifeskills Quantum Intl. (US-Singapore)
Mr. Sonny Coloma - Faculty, Asian Institute of Management (Philippines)

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SMC unit nets $1.25M

SAN MIGUEL Pure Foods (Vietnam) Co. Ltd. posted four-fold increase in net income for the first seven months of the year to $1.25 million.

Formerly TTC (Vietnam) Co. Ltd., San Miguel's venture into pig farming and feed milling resulted in a 426-percent rise in net income from last year's $237,159.

Operating income also rose to $1.69 million for the period, from $377,291 last year.

San Miguel attributes the growth to efficiencies in hog farming and the application of the technology used by B-MEG, San Miguel's feed brand, for the feed milling operations.

Sales revenue rose 32 percent to $11.78 million.

San Miguel Vietnam is expanding its hog farm to increase sow population to 13,800 from the present 11,600.

It will also use the 50 hectares inside its 234-hectare property to grow cassavas, to be used in its feed milling operations.

San Miguel Vietnam's hog farming and feed milling facility in Binh Duong was bought from the Taiwan Tea Corp. in October 2003. San Miguel is using it as a springboard into Vietnam's basic and processed meats market.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 1, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	69,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	139,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.62	0.63	670,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.5	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27.5	28	500,500
Philippine National Bank	38	38	38	38	13,800
Phil. Savings Bank	33	34	32	34	1,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.25	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	49,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	2,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2810	2820	2810	2820	760
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	8,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	141	141	141	141	100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2050	2040	2050	820
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	35,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.99	1	0.99	1	2,890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	720	720	720	24,540
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	132,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.05	0.0525	7,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	3.05	2.9	2.95	3,112,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1580	1610	1580	1610	74,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	6,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	5,700
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	23	22.5	23	430,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	4,248,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	428,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.28	725,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	160,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.1	8.1	8	8	1,251,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Holcim Philippines, Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	1,017,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	8,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	34	33	34	75,300
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	65.5	66.5	128,400
San Miguel Corp. B	94.5	95	94.5	94.5	235,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	730,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	295	297.5	292.5	292.5	50,980
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	140,000
Abolitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	255,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	7,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	1,212,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	1,140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.71	0.78	0.71	0.73	3,160,000
Anies Prime Res. Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	39,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.6	1.52	1.6	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	3,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.1	5,640,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.235	0.24	5,810,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.205	70,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,390,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	3	2.95	3	1,818,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	5,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	240,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42.5	42	42.5	260,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	13,200,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	231,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.32	1.32	136,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	13,480,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	220,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	960,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	195,000
SM Investments Corp.	205	207	205	206	86,190
South China Resources Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	110,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	1,180,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.97	0.93	0.95	13,530,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	8	8	5	5	2,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.71	220,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	2,553,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	887,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	35,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.2	8	8	5,548,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	3,390,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	5,121,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	470,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4	4	4	4	107,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.165	1,560,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	85,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	7	7.1	12,128,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	105,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.8	7	6.8	6.9	997,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.6	8.8	8.6	8.7	85,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.16	252,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	174,160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	28,110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	233,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	138,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	865,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.87	6,890,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.1	17,025,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	28	86,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.38	5,230,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0048	0.006	0.0048	0.006	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	43,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	35,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	64,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	5,060,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.45	0.42	0.43	3,590,000

CURRENCIES

September 1, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.809913	1.000000	56.2610
Japan	Yen	0.007323	0.009042	0.5087
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461246	1.804200	101.5061
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104211	0.128669	7.2390
Switzerland	Franc	0.646483	0.798212	44.9082
Canada	Dollar	0.682492	0.842673	47.4096
Singapore	Dollar	0.481747	0.594813	33.4648
Australia	Dollar	0.608454	0.751258	42.2665
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.148368	2.652590	149.2374
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215965	0.266652	15.0021
Brunei	Dollar	0.480318	0.593049	33.3655
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019620	0.024225	1.3629
UAE	Dirham	0.220535	0.272294	15.3195
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.234700	69.4655
Argentina	Peso	0.278321	0.343643	19.3337
Brazil	Real	0.342966	0.423460	23.8243
Denmark	Kroner	0.134087	0.165557	9.3144
India	Rupee	0.018399	0.022717	1.2781
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214745	0.265146	14.9174
Mexico	New Peso	0.075376	0.093067	5.2360
New Zealand	Dollar	0.560532	0.692089	38.9376
South Africa	Rand	0.126636	0.156357	8.7968
Korea	Won	0.000779	0.000962	0.0541
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024763	0.030575	1.7202

Energy ventures get funds

THE UNITED Nations Development Program said it would be providing better access to funds for renewable energy projects through the establishment of a $2.6-million loan guarantee fund (LGF) with Banco de Oro-Universal Bank.

"The LGF is expected to spur lending to (renewable energy) proponents as it addresses the perceived credit and collateral risks hindering their access to financing," UNDP resident representative Kyo Naka said in a statement yesterday.

The amount will serve as a partial loan guarantee mechanism that is seen to encourage various entities to engage in renewable energy development.

The fund will be made available to renewable energy project developers, including retail lenders to small renewable energy systems.

The LGF is funded through grants from the Global Environment Facility to the UNDP's Capacity Building to Remove Barriers on Renewable Energy Development in the Philippines (CBRED) Project and to the World Bank's Rural Power Project (RRP).

Naka said the CBRED Project aimed to help remove the hurdles associated with the widespread development and use of renewable energy in the country.

This could be done by streamlining and rationalizing market entry, strengthening the capacities of government agencies for policy development and implementation, and providing information to and boosting coordination among renewable energy stakeholders, he said. *Abigail L. Ho*

DOE moves to attract investors into oil refining

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is studying the possibility of bringing back the tariff differential between crude and finished oil products to attract new players in the oil refining industry.

Such a move, which can be done through an executive order or amendment to the oil deregulation law, could also prevent Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. from closing down its refinery.

At present, a uniform tariff of 5 percent is imposed on both crude oil and refined petroleum products. Prior to the deregulation of the oil industry, there was a 4-percentage-point difference between the duty on crude and that on finished petroleum products.

Pilipinas Shell said it might have to invest up to P60 billion starting 2006 to improve its refinery here should it decide to keep it running.

Its country manager Edgardo Chua said the company would decide whether or not to continue operating its refinery in the Philippines by 2006.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said "some form of a tariff differential may have to be put in place to make the refinery business attractive to investors."

The DOE, he said, was studying whether a tariff differential would be acceptable and at what level considering a 1977 Supreme Court ruling against it.

"We are looking at bringing back the tariff differential to ensure adequate supply," said Lotilla.

The United States DOE had said the Philippines was highly vulnerable to oil supply shortages due to its reduced refining capacity.

The 1997 Oil Deregulation Law removed the tariff differential between crude oil and finished petroleum products and set the import duty of both at 3 percent. The cash-strapped Arroyo administration later raised the tariff on both products to 5 percent.

Chua said Shell might consider keeping its refinery in the country if the government could provide sufficient incentives.

With the industry's deregulation, Caltex Philippines decided to shut down its refinery and decided to focus its operations on importation and distribution. It said it was more cost-efficient to just import given that duties on crude oil and refined oil imports were the same.

Petron Corp. has a refining capacity of 180,000 barrels a day and Shell has 110,000 barrels a day, but both are not running on full capacity.

'ISM has no . . .

From page B1

ISM students as their primary concern. They also urged management to cease its "forum shopping" activities.

"This issue was already decided in 2000," ISAE president Rachel Ching said in a telephone interview. "We have nowhere else to go."

She explained that the back wages owed to teachers ballooned after the peso depreciated in the late 1990s.

"Some wages of local hires dropped to as low as 50 percent of that of foreign hires, from an average of 75 percent," she said.

Ching added that the union is willing to meet halfway with the school's board and may even settle for less than what they are supposed to receive in back wages.

The Supreme Court's decision to abolish the two-tiered pay scale of the school—and the Labor Department's order awarding additional back wages to the aggrieved teachers—has raised the hackles of foreign businessmen, criticizing once more what they call the uneven playing field in the country.

Not surprisingly, the prospect of a massive pullout of foreign investments is also being foisted over the Filipino public.

Ching yesterday called on foreign chambers of commerce and other lobby groups to refrain from interfering in the labor dispute.

"This is not an economic issue," Ching said. "What is the place of foreign chambers here? Why are they pressuring government?"

The usual line

Some local businessmen think foreigners are wearing the boycott argument thin.

"The threat of losing investments is their usual sound bite," said Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Donald Dee. "I don't worry about that too much."

Indeed, practically all court or regulatory decisions that go against the interests of foreign businesses are followed by dire predictions of doom for the local investment scene.

These include the Supreme Court's decision to nullify the contract of a German consortium to operate Naia Terminal 3, Congress' decision to levy taxes on foreign banks' dollar deposits, investigations into the controversial IMPSA acquisition of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power plant, all the way to the high tribunal's decision to nullify the sale of Manila Hotel to Malaysian investors in the early 1990s.

For Dee, ISM has no one to blame but itself if it finds itself holding a weak hand in the ongoing legal poker game.

"They know they lost [the case]," the PCCI official said in a telephone interview. More importantly, Dee said, ISM practically threw the case away through neglect.

Instead, ISM officials are now resorting to a public lobbying effort, hoping that the prospect of losing an established educational landmark will move the public and policymakers to see their point of view.

They argue that awarding $7.1 million in back wages to teachers—many of them retired—will deal a massive financial blow to the non-stock, non-profit school, possibly pushing it to insolvency.

"The Supreme Court will look at the facts," said Dee, whose business often deals with the labor sector. "Many companies have been closed [in the past] because of judgments in favor of the workers."

Nonetheless, Dee—like many local and foreign businessmen—are raising a howl of protest at what they perceive to be the excessive involvement of the Judiciary in the affairs of business.

Too much interference

In particular, some are now questioning the activist/nationalist stance of the courts when it comes to corporate issues—a field, critics believe, should be best left to businessmen.

"It seems that the Supreme Court has very little understanding of the economic impacts of their decisions," said business consultant Peter Wallace in an interview.

Wallace, an Australian who serves as adviser to foreign firms wanting to do business in the country, said he is concerned about some court decisions which overturn preset agreements between contracting parties.

In the case of ISM, Wallace disagrees with the decision of the court and the Labor Department to equalize the salary scale of foreigners with locals.

"Different countries have different standards of living," he said. "To expect a teacher hired in New York to be paid the same wage as a teacher here is unrealistic. I think the two-tiered scheme is perfectly fair."

On top of this, Wallace believes that the decision to bill ISM for back wages based on the new pay scheme is "devastating."

"Clearly, a ruling like this is a deterrent to foreign businesses," he added.

New foreign investments entering the country has slowed to a trickle, partly because of concerns about a judicial system that often overturns contracts thought to be carved in stone.

"I get very few advisory clients these days," Wallace lamented. "This issue about ISM just adds to the whole negative perception about the Philippines overseas."

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Bananas for health, profit

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

AFTER you read the information below, you may not think of bananas in the same way.

We know the expression: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away!" But with apples being imported and draining our foreign exchange, the local banana—which provides jobs to thousands—is really the better alternative.

Health benefits

When you compare a banana to an apple, it has four times the protein, twice the carbohydrates, three times the phosphorus and five times the vitamin A and iron. It is rich in potassium and is one of the best value foods around.

Banana is high in potassium yet low in salt, so it can help address high blood pressure problems. The US Food and Drug Administration has allowed the banana industry to make official claims for the banana's ability to reduce the risk of blood pressure and stroke. A research published in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that eating bananas as part of a regular diet can cut the risk of death by stroke by as much as 40 percent.

Bananas are high in fiber and can therefore help restore normal bowel action without resorting to laxatives. For ulcers, the banana is used as a dietary food against intestinal disorders because of its soft texture. It neutralizes over-acidity and reduces irritation by coating the lining of the stomach.

For stress, its high level of potassium helps normalize the heart beat, sends oxygen to the brain and regulates the body's water balance. Regarding overweight, the Institute of Psychology in Austria found pressure at work leads to gorging on comfort foods like chocolate and sweet products. In a study covering 5,000 hospital patients, the most obese were more likely to be in high pressure jobs. To control blood sugar levels, snacking on high carbohydrate foods like banana instead of sugar-rich foods is recommended. Even for insect bites, rubbing the affected area with the inside of the banana skin may be more successful at reducing swelling and irritation than chemical-based creams.

Economic significance

When describing Philippine agriculture, it is often said that rice, corn and coconut occupy 30 percent each of our land area, with sugar occupying 4 percent. Banana is rarely mentioned. A more accurate picture is provided by Francisco A. Moog, the international coordinator of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) regional working group, on Grazing and Feed Resources for Southeast Asia, and a Department of Agriculture (DA) division chief. Last June 2005, he published the following table:

Area, production and value of five important crops

Crop	Area (thousand hectares)	Production (million tons)	Value of production (billion pesos)
Rice	4,006	13.5	118.0
Corn	2,410	4.6	32.5
Coconut	3,214	14.1	38.7
Sugar	389	24.0	21.8
Banana	410	5.4	30.1

From the above table, we see that banana covers a greater area and has a production value 50 percent more than sugar. And yet it has received less attention than sugar, partly because the sugar industry is much better organized.

Today, bananas are the main fruit in international trade. It ranks first in the world in terms of volume. According to Francisco Lorenzo, vice president of the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters based in Davao, there is much profit potential in the banana industry. He says, "There are many more small farmers joining this industry. The challenge is for the government to help ensure that even for the small farmers, the high quality of our world-class banana exports is maintained and even improved."

George Yacatin, president of the Banana Industry Development Association based in Cagayan and a key leader of the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries in Northern Mindanao, says, "Priority be given to farmers who need less capital per hectare of banana. While we believe cavendish banana production should continue to receive the P520,000 per hectare loan it needs, we suggest that a much larger portion of the loanable funds be given to *lacatan* and *latundan* banana production, which only needs P220,000 and P130,000 per hectare respectively. In addition, the 5-percent added service provider fee for the current 22 percent annual interest charged on Quedancor loans should be addressed so that the interest rate decreases to 17 percent."

A suggestion given by banana farmers from the Alyansa Agrikultura is for the local government units to direct some of their underutilized agriculture extension workers to teach pest and disease control in banana production areas. A banana a day will not only keep the doctor away. With more DA and LGU support, it will also provide jobs and increased incomes to impoverished farmers in an area that provides one of the highest returns on investment in agriculture today.

(For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

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Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo: Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents- New Episode	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Challenge	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	El True Hollywood Story		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector		Angel		Friends	Karen Sisco
AXN						Worst Case Scenario		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	Cold Squad (Season IV)		WRC 2005: Rally XS	E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)				Worst Case Scenario	
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Swat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show						The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Eliminate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Rundown (10.55PM)	
HBO				Last Man Standing			Secondhand Lions (5:45 PM)				The Glimmer Man			The American President					
Star Movies	Just A Kiss (2:20 PM)			The Flintstones (Movie) (3:50 PM)			My Cousin Vinny (5:25 PM)				Identity Theft			Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery			Anatomy		
EWTN	Deep Conversation. Deep Prayer	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Force	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Theology Of The Body	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Miracles Of The Cross	EWTN Bookmark	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

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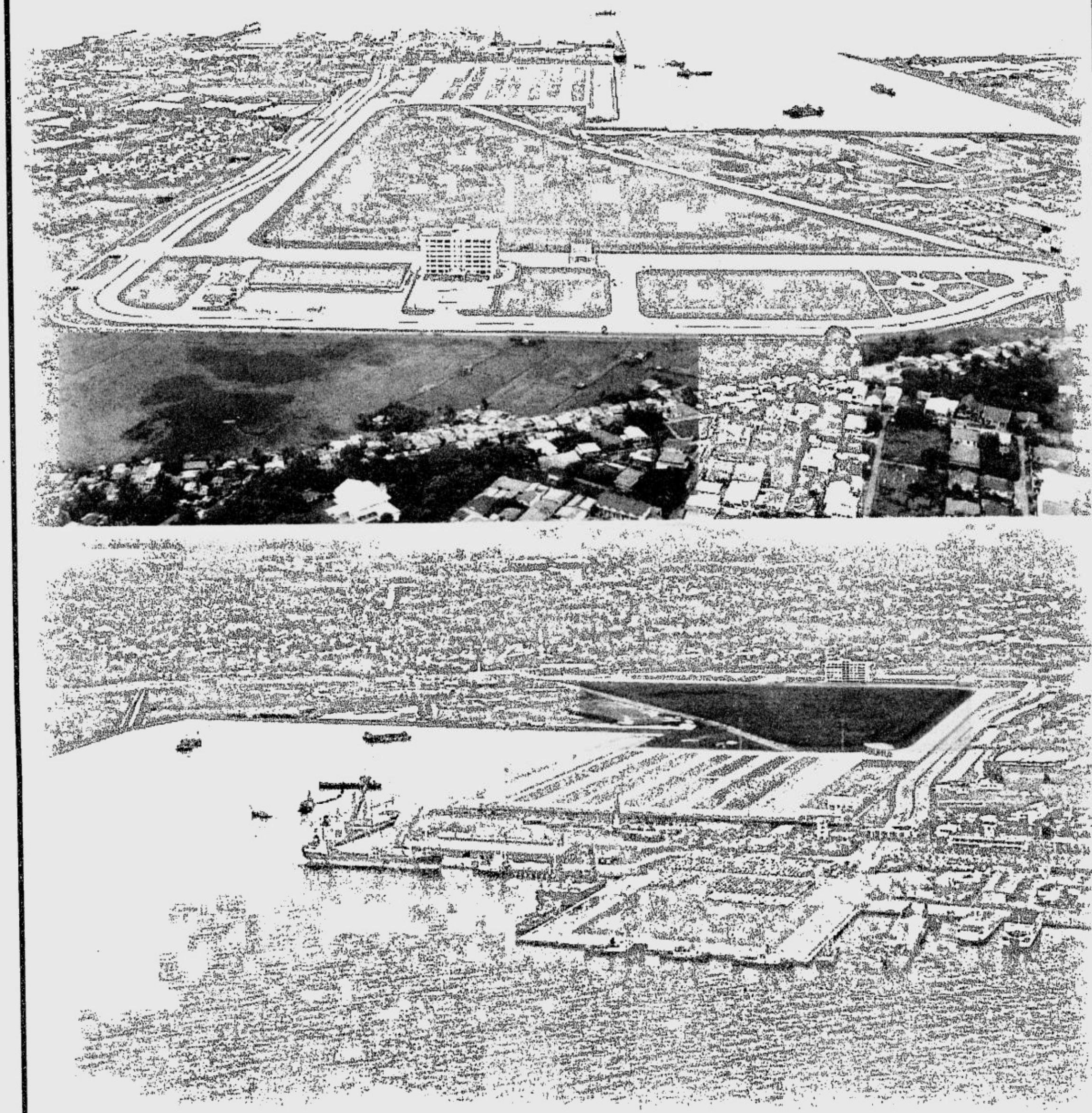
SHIMIZU, FF CRUZ TURN OVER TODAY MODERN PORT CONTAINER FACILITIES

P2.885-B Batangas Port project, biggest port developed in the country, has been completed ahead of schedule.



A Joint Venture of construction tycoons from Japan and the Philippines, namely: SHIMIZU CORPORATION and F.F. CRUZ & CO. INC., turns over today the completed modern port container facilities at the Batangas Port, Batangas City. Built at a cost of P2.885 billion, the Batangas Port Phase II Project has been completed ahead of schedule. It will be a milestone in Philippine ports history as it is the biggest port developed in the country.

Shimizu Corporation is considered the largest construction company in Japan doing buildings and infrastructure. It is involved in a lot of overseas construction projects.

F.F. Cruz & Co., on the other hand, is a leading construction firm in the country doing roads and bridges, ports, harbor dredging and reclamation works, dams and irrigation canals and surveys.

The project was funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Batangas Port is expected to play an important role both in the national and regional development framework. It will provide access to industrial cargo trade primarily between the CALABARZON area and the rest of the country and the world, as well as serve as supplementary port to cater to cargoes which can no longer be accommodated at the Port of Manila.

The role is highlighted by the increasing industrial and commercial developments in the CALABARZON and the improvement of the land transport link between Metro Manila and Batangas Province.

The Batangas Port Project is part of the "urban beltway" under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's medium term public investment priority program and roll-on/roll off strong nautical highway scheme.

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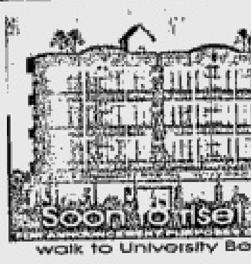

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6, Jaro, Iloilo City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on July 28, 2004

RO6-2005-002
Supply of Trucking/Hauling Services, Iloilo

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 6*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Trucker/Hauler owners/operators/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply of Trucking/Hauling Services
Location : Iloilo
Brief Description : Trucking/Hauling of Iron Fortified Rice (IFR) for the following volume and specific routes:

A. From Loboc Port, Iloilo City to NFA warehouse

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Volume (bags)	Minimum Trucking Reqmt. (No.)	Minimum Load/Cap. Reqmt.	Rate/bag	ABC
1	Kabsaka Whse, Jaro, Iloilo City	274,500	16	6,400	P3.72	P1,021,140.00

B. From Kabsaka Warehouse to different provinces of Panay:

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse/ Destination	Volume (bags)	Min. No. Trucking Reqmt. (No.)	Minimum Load/Capacity Reqmt.	Rate/bag	ABC
2	GID Whse., Banga, Aklan	3,500	2	700	P28.13	P98,445.00
3	Camp Fullon Whse, San Jose, Antique	5,500	2	700	P19.42	P106,810.00
4	Bolo Whse., Roxas City, Capiz	8,000	4	1,400	P20.93	P167,440.00

C. From Kabsaka Warehouse, Jaro, Iloilo City to Iloilo City Port for Dispersal to Bacolod City, Negros Occidental and different port destination of Region 8.

Lot No.	Receiving Warehouse	Volume (bags)	Minimum Trucking Reqmt/ Contract	Minimum Load/Cap. Reqmt./ Contract	Rate/bag	ABC
5	Kabsaka to Iloilo City Port	235,500			P3.72	P876,060.00
	Breakdown of Destination:					
	Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	38,000	6	2,400		
	Tacloban, N. Leyte	58,000	6	2,400		
	Maasin, S. Leyte	18,000	6	2,400		
	Naval, Biliran	12,500	6	2,400		
	Catbalogan, W. Samar	29,000	6	2,400		
	San Jose, N. Samar	41,000	6	2,400		
	Guruan, E. Samar	39,000	6	2,400		

Contract Duration : September-October, 2005
Delivery Period : September-October, 2005

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be in governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Address	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Aug. 26 Sept. 2, 2005	8:00 am- 5:00 pm
2. Pre-bid Conference	Conference room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Sept. 5, 2005	9:00 am
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Sept. 20, 2005	9:00 am
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2/F National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City	Sept. 20, 2005	9:30am
5. Bid Evaluation		Sept. 21, 2005	
6. Post-Qualification		Sept. 22, 2005	
7. Notice of Award		Sept. 23, 2005	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00) to the National Food Authority Cashier.

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The *National Food Authority, Region 6* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-2165 / 320-6246
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(PDI - Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2005)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE KATHLEEN M. SIYTANGCO HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS AS PER DOC. #231; PAGE #48; BOOK # III SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOT. PUBLIC ATTY. ALFONSO L. SANTOS OF MAKATI CITY (PDI SEPT. 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NG SENG LAO has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 215, Page No. 20, Book No. XXII, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Jose V. Marcella. (PDI-Sept. 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EXPEDITO C. SAZON was extrajudicially settled with waiver of rights among his heirs as per Doc #355 Page #71 Book #II Series of 2005 of Notary Public of Atty. Jaime D. Discaya of QC (PDI-Aug.19,26 & Sept.2, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance with RA 7041

1. **RECORDS OFFICER III – SG 18**
FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE – Item No. OMBA-RO3-2-2004
Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: Two (2) years of relevant experience; Training: Eight (8) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility

2. **ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER III – SG 22**
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) D – Item No. OMBA-AGIO3-4-1998
Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: One (1) year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Two (2) years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1" x 1" picture (colored)
4) * Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) * Transcript of Records;
6) * Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) * Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) * Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman

* Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operation and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Construction of District II Office Building at Tayabas, Quezon

Brief Description:
A single storey office building approximately 600 sq. m. is to be constructed at Mateuna, Tayabas, Quezon. Work includes development of site such as construction of roadway, parking space and landscaping works.

[*TRANS-05-CDI0BTQ-EG-07*]

The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*, through the *Internal Cash Generation* (ICG) intends to apply the sum of *Fifteen Million Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety & 51/100 (Php15,385,790.51)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Construction of District II Office Building at Tayabas, Quezon*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL TRASMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM* now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the *Construction of District II Office Building at Tayabas, Quezon*. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "*Category B, General Building*" and Registration Particular of at least: "Medium A, Building & Industrial Plant", respectively, have completed a similar contract involving construction of housing, school, hospital, office building and other related structures. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***September 21, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***240 calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.
Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 29-September 16, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,500.00***. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before *Septemeber 21, 2005, 9:00 A.M.* at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***September 21, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the Stated Address

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office ((RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** on ***October 07-11, 2005.***
A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php5,000.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***October 07-11, 2005, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***October 20, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Biñan, Laguna.
Deadline for submission of bids is on ***November 02, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***November 02, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM***. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024

Mr. Reynaldo B. Vergara BAC Chairman
Tel. No.: (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4096; 4053
rbvergara@transco.ph
Fax No. (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph

(SGD). REYNALDO B. VERGARA
Dept. Manager, District I /
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept. 2, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION III
Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. No. (045) 961-7825 • Fax No. (045) 961-4486
descro3@digitelone.com • ro3@deped.gov.ph
decs_ro3@digitelone.com

DepED

August 15, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Regional Office III through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders / suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

Project: **Supply and Delivery of Continuous Forms**

Description

No.	Specification	Quantity	Unit
1	14 7/8 x 11 Bond Paper Sub 18 Long 5 ply with carbon and gray lines 250 sets/box	800	boxes
2	9 ½ x 11 Bond Paper Sub 18 short 2 ply with carbon and gray lines 450 sets/box	1,000	boxes
3	9 ½ x 11 Bond Paper Sub 18 short 5 ply with carbon and gray lines 450 sets/box	1,000	boxes

Location: DepEd Regional Office III, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P)
Allocation: P 3,308,000.00
Delivery Period: 30 days

The bidding will be conducted through an open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass / fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements will be on or before September 12, 2005 at the Supply Unit, Department of Education, Regional Office III.

Bid Documents will be available for issuance to bidders or to his / her authorized representative on September 15 and 16, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos to the DepEd Cashier.

Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the DepEd RO III, Conference Hall on September 20, 2005 at 9.00 a.m.

The Submission of Eligibility Statements and Price Proposals is Schedules on October 3, 2005, 10.00 a.m. at the Supply Unit Room, DepEd Regional Office III, Maimpis, City of San Fernando, Pampanga and Opening of Bids will follow immediately. Bids of ineligible bidders shall be returned unopened.

The DepEd Regional Office III reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders

(Sgd.) RICARDO T. SIBUG
Director III
RPBAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Philippines

PERFECTO TAN and CLARITA TAN
Petitioners,
-versus-
JOHN C. TAN, MANUEL C. TAN and ALICE C. TAN
Respondents.
x----------x

SEC Case No. 09-04-35
For: Involuntary Dissolution

4 August 2005

To:
BERNAS LAW OFFICES
Counsel for the Petitioners
8th Floor Raha Sulayman Building
108 Benavidez Street, Legaspi
Village, Makati City, M.M.

ATTY. REDEMBERTO R. VILLANUEVA
RRV Legal Consultancy Firm
Counsel for the Respondents
Penthouse, CC Castro Int'l. Bldg.
No. 38 Timog Avenue, Quezon City

GREETINGS:

Please take notice that on August 3, 2005, an Order was issued by the Commission in the above-entitled case, the original of which is now on file with this Commission.

(Sgd.) VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Philippines

PERFECTO TAN and CLARITA TAN
Petitioners,
-versus-
JOHN C. TAN, MANUEL C. TAN and ALICE C. TAN
Respondents.
x----------x

SEC Case No. 09-04-35
For: Involuntary Dissolution

ORDER

For consideration of the Commission is the petition for involuntary dissolution which was filed by Perfecto Tan and Clarita Tan ("Petitioners" for brevity) on September 3, 2004, praying that an Order be issued dissolving Dup Sound Philippines, Inc. ("Dup Sound" for brevity).

Petitioners and respondents are stockholders of Dup Sound, a stock corporation duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission" for brevity) under SEC Registration No. AS93003166. Its principal office is located at No. 83 A. De Jesus, San Francisco, Del Monte, Quezon City. The primary purpose of the corporation is:

> *"To engage in, operate, conduct and maintain the business of manufacturing, importing, exporting, buying, selling or otherwise dealing in, at wholesale and retail such goods as: cassette tapes, video and audio tape devices & other musical equipment and other plastic products and any and all equipment, materials, supplies used or employed in or related to the manufacture of such finished products."*

Petitioners allege among others that:

1. Petitioners collectively own fifty percent (50%) of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Dup Sound. Perfecto Tan owns 1,250 shares of stock while Clarita Tan owns 1,250 shares of stock. Respondents on the other hand, likewise collectively own 50% of the issued and outstanding voting capital stock of Dup Sound. John Tan owns 1,250 shares of stock, Manuel Tan owns 1,000 shares and Alice Tan owns 250 shares of stock.
2. Respondents unilaterally ran the operations of Dup Sound. The funds of Dup Sound were deposited in respondents' personal account.
3. Petitioners have never received notices of meetings despite the alleged meetings indicated in the General Information Sheets submitted by respondent Manuel Tan to the Commission for the years 2000, 2001 and 2003.
4. Petitioners have discovered that the office of Dup Sound has been padlocked without posting a security guard in the office premises.
5. Respondents stopped the operations of Dup Sound without notice to petitioners. Hence the need to dissolve Dup Sound involuntarily.

On the other hand, respondents in their position paper argue that:

1. Petitioners, for unknown reasons, intentionally did not attend and unjustifiably refused to participate during the stockholders' and board meetings despite notices.
2. Respondents were compelled to stop the operations of Dup Sound despite lack of stockholders' meeting authorizing the cessation of business or closure of office due to the unjustified refusal of the petitioners to cooperate with the respondents in running the business, which is already detrimental to the interest of the corporation
3. Respondents interpose no opposition to the instant petition.

The following facts are undisputed:

1. Petitioners and respondents respectively own fifty percent (50%) of the outstanding capital stock on Dup Sound;
2. The stockholders' groups are in serious dissension and are in deadlock; and
3. Dup Sound has ceased operations.

Dissolution for deadlock is proper where two shareholders each hold 50% of stock of corporation and could not agree on any decisions and each alleged that the other had misappropriated corporate funds."

In another case, Fletcher noted that dissolution is the proper remedy "when it appears that the directors are deadlocked in the management of corporate affairs, and the stockholders are unable to break the deadlock and that irreparable injury to the corporation is being suffered or is threatened by reason thereof."

Further, the continuous inoperation of subject corporation coupled with the discovery that its principal place of business was padlocked, abandoned and unused up to this date, without posting a security guard could be detrimental to the interest of both parties and may be considered as sufficient ground for dissolution

As a matter of policy, corporations should be protected from the danger of losing their corporate existence simply because of inoperation, non-use or abandonment of its business. But willful suspension or abandonment of business, with no intention to resume may be a ground for forfeiture.

In the instant case, the cessation of the business operations of Dup Sound was intentional in view of the serious dissension among the stockholders. Due to the deadlock among stockholders there is a remote possibility that the corporation would still be able to resume its business operations.

Moreover, respondents themselves alleged in their Answer filed on October 29, 2004, that they do not interpose any opposition to the instant petition and in fact likewise prayed for the dissolution of the corporation.

After an evaluation of the pleadings filed by the parties, the Commission finds the dissolution appropriate under the circumstances prevailing in the instant case.

The corporation can no longer continue doing business considering that the stockholders can not come to an agreement as to how the operations of the corporation should be undertaken. Both parties themselves have already agreed to the dissolution of the corporation.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Commission hereby declares subject corporation **DISSOLVED**. The parties are hereby directed to submit the name of their respective nominee as Liquidator/Receiver within thirty days (30) from actual receipt hereof. In the event the parties fail to agree thereon, the Commission shall appoint the Liquidator/Receiver from the list of Liquidators/Receivers of the Commission to protect the interest of all the parties.

Let this Order be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, at the expense of the petitioners

SO ORDERED.

03 August 2005, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) VERNETTE G. UMALI-PACO
General Counsel

(PDI - Sept. 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-METRO MANILA
Acacia Lane, Wellareville Compound, Mandaluyong City

Sentrong Sigla

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid
Procurement of Various Goods

The Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM), through the GOP funds – CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of the following goods being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The CHD-MM now invites sealed Bids, from eligible Bidders for the procurement of various goods. Delivery of the GOODS is required by end of November 2005. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Table 1

IAEB No.	GOODS	ABC	Bid Document Price
2005-0001	One (1) Mobile Clinic	P6,500,000.00	P10,000.00
2005-0002	Environmental Supplies	15,500,000.00	5,000.00
2005-0003	Seven Hundred (700) AFB Staining Kit	3,100,000.00	5,000.00
2005-0004	Security Services	2,400,000.00	5,000.00
2005-0005	Internet Service Provider	300,000.00	1,500.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualifications stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Supply Section (c/o Ms. Zenaida B. Reyes at tel no. 535-4542) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 am to 3.00 pm

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee from August 29, 2005 – September 9, 2005. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CHD-MM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 14, 2005 (10:00 am) at the CHD-MM Amphitheatre, Acacia Lane Wellareville Compound, Mandaluyong City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address stated below on or before the date and time stated in Table 2. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form stated in ITB Clause 22.1 of Bid Data Sheet. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at the CHD-MM Amphitheatre on time and date stated in Table 2. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below

Table 2

IAEB No.	Submission of Bids & Eligibility Requirements (Time & Date)	Bid Opening (Time & Date)
2005-0001	1:00 pm September 26, 2005	1:05 pm September 26, 2005
2005-0002	9:00 am September 27, 2005	9:05 am September 27, 2005
2005-0003	9:00 am September 28, 2005	9:05 am September 28, 2005
2005-0004	9:00 am September 29, 2005	9:05 am September 29, 2005
2005-0005	9:00 am September 30, 2005	9:05 am September 30, 2005

The CHD-MM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-METRO MANILA
DR. RUBEN S. SIAPNO
Acacia Lane, Wellareville Compound, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. (632) 535-45-42
E-mail address: chd_mm@yahoo.com
Fax No. (632) 535-45-95

(Sgd.) RUBEN S. SIAPNO, MD, MPH
Chairman
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2005)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

WE, the undersigned parties representing the entities herein to wit:

The **MOVIE & TELEVISION REVIEW & CLASSIFICATION BOARD**, a government agency with principal office at 6F, President Tower Bldg. #81 Timog Avenue cor. Scl. Ybardolaza, Diliman, Quezon City, represented herein by **Honorable Ma. Consoliza P. Laguardia** in her capacity as Chairperson, and hereinafter referred to as "MTRCB";

The **KAPISANAN NG MGA BRODKASTER NG PILIPINAS** ("KBP"), a non-stock, non-profit organization with principal office at 6th Floor LTA Building, 118 Perea Street, Legaspi Village Makati City represented herein by its **Chairman, Mr. Joselito G. Yabut** and its **President, Mr. Ruperto S. Nicdao, Jr.** and hereinafter referred to as the "KBP";

Witneseth: That,

WHEREAS, Section 13, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being, and inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;

WHEREAS, the MTRCB, in keeping with its goal to foster self-regulation by devolving a part of its function to industry organizations able to implement self-regulatory measures within the industry, consistent with the ideals of the MTRCB;

WHEREAS, the KBP, an organization composed of a majority of the country's broadcast stations and practitioners, has been an invaluable ally of the MTRCB in promoting responsible broadcast practices in the industry, through the exercise of its own existing system of self-regulation.

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility of determining broadcast content is reposed in the Broadcast Congressional Franchise grantee;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Presidential Decree 1986, the MTRCB is the sole agency of government vested with the authority to supervise and regulate motion picture, television broadcast programs, inclusive of advertising, publicity and promotional materials pertinent thereto.

WHERAS, Section 3, paragraph (h) of the said Presidential Decree empowers the MTRCB "to deputize representatives from x x x the various associations in the industry, whose main duties shall be to help ensure compliance with all laws relative to x x x exhibition and/ or television broadcast of advertisements and publicity materials.";

WHEREAS, to realize, achieve and sustain the above cited goals and aspirations for the Filipino youth as we prepare them to become responsible citizens and future leaders of our country, there is a need to reinforce the guiding principles and strengthen the review and monitoring system of content regulation of advertisements thru the KBP:

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the MTRCB and the KBP hereby agree and undertake the following:

1. DEPUTIZATION: Pursuant to Section 3, paragraph (h) of Presidential Decree 1986, empowering the MTRCB "to deputize representatives from x x x the various associations in the industry, the MTRCB hereby constitutes and deputizes the KBP, and the KBP hereby accepts its appointment, to exercise and implement a system of advertising content regulation within the purview, purposes and objectives of Presidential Decree No. 1986 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

2. KBP UNDERTAKING - In furtherance of the collaborative effort of the MTRCB and the KBP and to achieve, realize and sustain the above-cited goals and objectives, the KBP hereby undertakes:

   a. To adopt as part of its overriding and guiding principles the State's policy in promoting and protecting the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of the youth, inculcating patriotism and nationalism, and encouraging their involvement in public and civic affairs;

   b. To adopt as part of its system of advertising content regulation the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1986 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations thereby prohibiting the production and/or exhibition of advertising, promotional and publicity materials, which in the judgement of the KBP, acting as deputy of the MTRCB " x x x applying contemporary Filipino cultural values as standard, are objectionable for being immoral, indecent, contrary to law and/or good customs injurious to the prestige of the Republic of the Philippines or its people or with a dangerous tendency to encourage the commission of violence or of a wrong cirme".

   c. The KBP hereby undertakes to immediately issue a cease and desist order and/or order the immediate withdrawal and/or recall from public exhibition of any and all advertisements, promotional and/or publicity materials determined by the KBP as deputized agent of MTRCB to be objectionable with purview of the Presidential Decree No. 1986 and/or its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

   d. The KBP undertakes to submit to the MTRCB regular reports of actions taken in its capacity as deputy of MTRCB as may be required by the MTRCB from time to time and/or as circumstances dictate.

   e. In the performance of its functions as the deputy of MTRCB as herein authorized, the KBP shall be responsible for all expenses related thereto and may charge reasonable fees.

3. MTRCB UNDERTAKING - To ensure the implementation and/or compliance of the foregoing, the MTRCB undertakes:

   a. To support the KBP in the monitoring of advertisements, publicity and promotional materials;

   b. To support the KBP in the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the KBP Ethics for Advertising, Presidential Decree No 1986 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations; and

   c. To *motu propio* issue a cease and desist order and/or order the immediate withdrawal and/or recall from public exhibition any and all advertisements, promotional and/or publicity materials determined by the MTRCB to be objectionable within the purview of Presidential Decree No. 1986 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

All prior agreements or authorization granted that are inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed revoked and rescinded and shall have no force and effect immediately upon the execution hereof.

This agreement shall take effect immediately, KBP shall be responsible for setting up its own facilities, procedures and undertake other related activities to assume its functions as deputy of the MTRCB at the soonest practicable time.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hand this 10th day of August 2005 at Quezon City, Philippines.

MOVIE & TELEVISION REVIEW & CLASSIFICATION BOARD

MA. CONSOLIZA P. LAGUARDIA
Chairperson

KAPISANAN NG MGA BRODKASTER NG PILIPINAS

By:

JOSELITO G. YABUT
Chairman

RUPERTO S. NICDAO, JR.
President

SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

JACQUELINE SUZANNE A-GAVINO
MTRCB Vice Chairman

ALFREDO "ATOM" HENARES
KBP Vice Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)

The Government of the Philippines through the Office of the Ombudsman has received an ASEM Grant administered by the World Bank for Strengthening the Institution of the Office of the Ombudsman for Good Governance. Part of the grant proceeds shall be used to procure the services of a consulting firm, which shall undertake the following activities:

1. Developing a databank system on Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) of public officials and employees; and
2. Developing a Case Monitoring and Tracking System (CTMS) to support the prosecution of corruption cases.

The Office of the Ombudsman now invites interested firms to submit relevant information indicating their qualification to perform the abovementioned services. A firm shall be selected in accordance with Quality and Cost Based Selection Method prescribed under the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by Bank Borrowers published in May 2004.

The qualification documents shall include, but not limited to the following:

(i) Company profile or overview;
(ii) Key differentiators of services;
(iii) Resumé of key systems personnel;
(iv) Description of the company's business lines; and
(v) Latest financial statements.

Interested firms must prove;

(i) Sufficient experience and capacity to undertake the above activities.
(ii) A solid track record in developing systems of comparable nature and complexity.

Interested firms must also submit their letters of expressions of interest together with their qualification documents on or before September 12, 2005, 5:00 p.m. to:

Attn: Director Ador G. Paulino
Research and Special Studies Bureau
Office of the Ombudsman
4th Floor, Office of the Ombudsman Building
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Strengthening the Institution of the Office of the Ombudsman for Good Governance (WB-ASEM Trust Fund # 054210)

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Edna Urriza at telephone No. (632) 926 9032 loc. 408 and at fax no. (632) 928 7548

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820-1592 /825-9947

"Just whisper my name in your heart, I will be there..."

Francisco "Paquito/Kit" Zamora Lichauco

May 8, 1939 -September 1, 2005
Councilor of Makati City 2001-2005

Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 66.

His loving wife **Constancia "Nene" Q. Lichauco**, children and grandchildren:

Crickette & Emil Abello
Michelle, Marco & Sofia

Beetle & Liza Jabson
Samantha, Joseton, Frankie & Lui

Bumbee & Tricia Warren
Marga & Bea

Mosqui & Pebbles Roxas

Gamby & Cindy Arguelles
Hailey

Sister **Alice & Boy Salcedo**, brothers and sisters-in-law **Jun C. Quintos** (†) & **Norma de Leon**, **Carding C. Quintos** (†) & **Gloria Manaloto**, **Ching C. Quintos** & **Jun S. Austria** (†), **Baby C. Quintos** & **Bern G. Jalandoni**, **Ben C. Quintos** & **Linda Mayo**, **Tony C. Quintos** & **Gloria Joson** and **Johnny C. Quintos** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor at Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Novena Masses on September 2 & 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Funeral Mass on September 4, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.

Please omit flowers.

Our dearly beloved

CARMELA DACUMOS BERNALES

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 1, 2005 at the age of 71.

Her husband **Arturo** (†); loving **children Art Franciz, Art Bernard,** and **Ma. Carmelita**; siblings **Elisa D. Taca, Evangelina** (†), **Guillermo, Jr. & Maxine Anderson, Rosalinda,** and **Amelia**; nephews and nieces, brothers- and sisters-in-law all request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City until Saturday, September 3, 2005.

"WHOEVER SERVES ME MUST FOLLOW ME; AND WHERE I AM, MY SERVANT ALSO WILL BE."
JOHN 12:16

Emilio dela Cruz Bernardo

Of Sta. Ana, Manila and
Barangay Palanan, Makati City

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 31, 2005 at the age of 64.

His bereaved wife **Violeta**, children **Christine Marie, Celeste Mariel** and **Dennis**; granddaughter **Michaella Ira**; **Beth**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at Hope Chapel, Don Bosco Church, Makati City.

Our Beloved NINNI

MA. CARMELINA CARLOS CASTRO

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord in the early morning of August 31, 2005 at the age of 49.

Her bereaved husband **TITOS**; sons **PAOLO, MIGUEL** and **MARCO**; mother **ELSA CARLOS** and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at the Kamagong Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 3, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

The Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Philippine Region wish to announce the entrance into eternal life of

Sister Catherine Janet (Joan Bielman), M.M.
June 28, 2005

Sister Paul Ellen (Kathleen Keane), M.M.
August 14, 2005

Sister Rose Karen (Rose McGrale), M.M.
August 26, 2005

These Sisters served in Maryknoll Sisters' missions in Luzon and Mindanao for many years.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Developing Your Supervisory Leadership

September 21, 2005
1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.
Holiday Inn Galleria

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The productive or anemic performance of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Unfortunately, supervision is anything but easy. In fact, what often happens is that when a productive worker is promoted to a supervisory position, the company loses an effective worker and gains a poor supervisor. This is known as the Peter Principle and this is largely attributable to lack of fundamental skills and attitude training in supervision. Lack of training is a sure-fire formula for failure. This powerful program is designed to equip and empower the Supervisors by providing them the fundamental and advanced concepts and tools to professionalize their management style and enable them to effectively lead their team.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
* New or recently promoted supervisors with less than three years of formal supervisory experience;
* Experienced supervisors or managers reentering the job market and looking to update their resumes
* Informal leaders who have an unofficial supervisory role leading teams of coworkers or volunteers
* Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

LEARNING SEED
Session I: Why some supervisors fail
Session II: Becoming a supervisor
Session III: The nuts and bolts of supervision
Session IV: Planning and goal setting
Session V: Leading you people
Session VI: How to motivate fro result

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Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City

Telefax: 842-9458 Trunkline: 850-6380 loc. 128
waa@writeme.com

OHNAP to mark 55th year

THE Occupational Health Nurses Association of the Philippines (OHNAP) will celebrate its 36th National Annual Convention and 55th Foundation Anniversary on September 2-3 on board the MS-Philippines-Manila's Floating Hotel and Restaurant behind Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila. With "OHNAP: Anchored to Excellence in Occupational Health, Safety nd Environment," as its theme, the convention will feature plenary topics and paper presentations on the Best Occupational Health & Safety Practices in various industries, according to OHNAP National President Eularito Tagalog and Cynthia Ybarola, OHNAP deputy secretary general and chair of the celebration. Interested parties can contact Lyn del Rosario, Tel. Nos. 894-3049 & 840-2211, send an e-mail at ohnap@yahoo.com., or visit the OHNAP Secretariat at Room 248 Cityland Condominium 8, 98 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

JC International-Philippines celebrates the 25th Metro Area Conference

THE JUNIOR Chamber International, a worldwide federation of young leaders and entrepreneurs aged 21-40 years is represented in more than 100 countries throughout the world. We are the only Leadership Training and Development organization focused on creating positive change, by training the members to become better leaders by organizing projects in the area of Business, Individual, Community and International Development.
Over 250 officers and members of the Junior Chamber International Philippines, Metro Area Chapters, representing the different cities and municipalities of Metro Manila, Rizal and Bulacan provinces will be holding its 25th Annual Area Conference on September 3-4, at the Caylabne Bay Resort in Ternate, Cavite. Respected speakers from business and the academe will be conducting seminars focusing on creative positive change. An election of the National officers and an Area awarding ceremony will culminate the event. This event was made possible by our Media partner Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philam Life Phil, Torres Brandy and other sponsors. For inquiries on how to join the Jaycees, please call JCI-P HQ 373 7907-09.

CBF's 3rd year: A celebration of hope

HOPE is the operating force behind the Character Building Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization which advocates strong positive character for a progressive nation. When we hope, we believe that this country is still worth saving. When we hope, we believe that beneath the façade every Filipino wears in his daily grind, goodness still lies. When we hope, we believe that however bleak the present is, there is still a promising future awaiting each and every one of us. This is what CBF has been hoping to achieve since its founding three years ago: to build a future that every Filipino will be proud of. And for the coming year, this will be the driving force behind CBF events and activities as it celebrates its 3rd year anniversary on September 6, at the CBF office, 2nd floor, Filla Corporate Center, 4347 Valdez St. Makati Avenue. To date, CBF are implementing the following activities: Mga Kuwento ni Direk Heidi – a storytelling session interpreted through dance or drama. Vignette stories are values-inspired and situations are tailor-made for Filipinos; Paint the Future – An on-the-spot painting contest for children 12 years old and below. Topic must be the child's vision of the future. The winning art will be adopted by host city/municipality & company as its own road map; Adopt a Character – Is an activity where top Filipino painters are invited to interpret positive character through visual arts. Individuals/organizations etc will adopt the projected character as their own philosophy for success; Multi-media Presentation – Values inspired seminars that aims to affect individual attitudinal change; Direk Heidi Radio Program - Creates an environment for pro-active listening because it provides an avenue for listeners to be heard. 'Frequency: Sunday 3 to 4 p.m./ DWIZ 882 khz; Fund-Raising Concerts – Say it with Music – a fund-raising concert is slated this November 4, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza Makati Avenue. Performers are chief executive officers with musical talents. Join CBF in this difficult but possible endeavor. The future needs people like you. a Filipino who values the goodness that there is about life!

DR. LILIO RANGASAJO RIBAYA

of Oas, Albay and Oakland, California USA

Peacefully joined our Lord
and his wife ***Josefina Mabanag Ribaya***
on the 30th day of August 2005 at the age of 88.

He will be missed by his sons **EddieBoy**, **Alger**, and **Abet**, grandchildren **Joey** and **Eric**, sisters **Noemi** and **Mirafe Rebueno**, relatives and friends. They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Bahay Karmelo, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Project 6, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park Novaliches, Quezon City on Sunday, September 4, 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. requiem Mass.

For a Man who gave so much. He is lovingly remembered by family and friends
on the occasion of his 5th Death Anniversary

ROMEO Q. SOLIS

Former Undersecretary, Department of Budget and Management
PMA Class '54
(who died on September 2, 2000)

Holy Masses will be offered on Friday, September 2, 2005, at the following Churches:

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish, Project 4, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, Antipolo City	6:00 p.m.
Monasterio de Sta. Clara, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish, Brookside, Cainta	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle, Bel Air II, Makati City	6:30 p.m.
St. John Mary Vianney Parish, Antipolo City	6:30 p.m.
Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Mini-Parish Chapel, St. Joseph Subd., Cainta	8:00 p.m.

SIU KENG SY LIM

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 31, 2005 at the age of 90.

Her bereaved son **Lim Tian Biaw (Mark)**; daughter **Chiu Guat Lim Tsai (Carmen)**; daughter-in-law **Giok Ti (Carmen)**; son-in-law **Chia Tai Tsai**; grandchildren **Sarah Jane Lim, Wendell & Stephanie Lim, Wesley & Melody Lim, Jeffrey Tsai, Carlene Tsai**; great grandchildren **Wryley Martell Lim, John Patrick Lim, Tricia Mae Lim, Christian James Lim, Nathan Tsai, Nathalie Ho**; godson **Dionisio Chan & Lourdes Ragas**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at the Provident Village Chapels, Marikina City.

Interment will be on September 4, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8:15 a.m. Mass.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

IN LOVING MEMORY
ON THE SEVENTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

ANTONIO ZARAGOZA LIM

March 11, 1937 – September 3, 1998

Tony's widow, **Mariquita Bautista-Lim**; children **Tom, Louie, Missy and Jason Brodowski, and Bob**; granddaughters **Skye and Riley**; sister **Eva Lim Pasagui** and her family; Mariquita's siblings **Mely, Dodie and Warren Willis, Laly, Ted and Nina and Manolo Quiray**, and their families request relatives, friends and the kind reader to attend Mass or say a prayer for the eternal repose of Tony's soul.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005

Church of the Resurrection *BF Homes, Parañaque City*	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church *Arlington, Virginia*	6:45 a.m.
San Beda College - Alabang Chapel *Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City*	7:30 a.m.
St. Timothy's Church *Chantilly, Virginia*	9:00 a.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Church *Aguirre Ave., Parañaque City*	12:15 p.m.
Ateneo's St. Thomas More Chapel *Rockwell Center, Makati City*	5:15 p.m.
St. Anthony's Cathedral *Masbate, Masbate*	6:00 p.m.
Transfiguration of Our Lord Church *Murphy, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.

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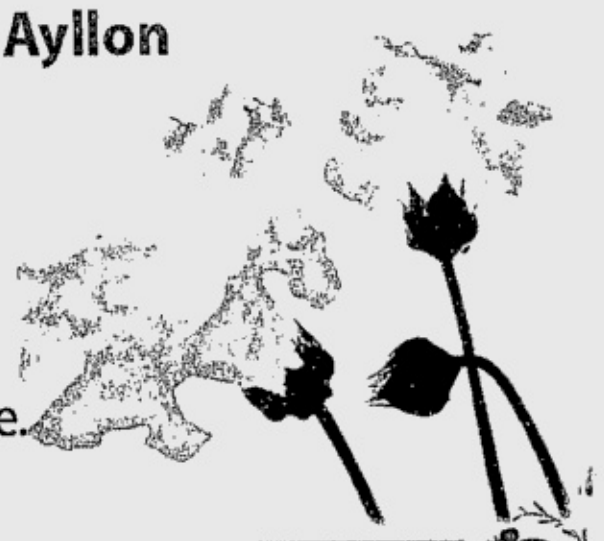
Speaker: **Ms. Cecille Ayllon**

WHEN: September 6, 2005
2:00 PM – 5:00PM

WHERE: Inquirer Multi-Purpose Hall
1098 PDI Bldg. Chino Roces Ave.
Makati City



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Take notice that the following Official Receipts of **Philippine Hoteliers, Inc. (Dusit Hotel Nikko)**, have been reported lost:

OR Nos.

279309	279318	279328	279331
279335	279506	279519	279520
279522	279523	279524	279527
279529	279530	279724	279740

The public is advised /warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by Philippine Hoteliers, Inc. (Dusit Hotel Nikko).

Reminder to all candidates who filed their Certificate of Candidacy for the August 8, 2005 ARMM Elections

Last day for Filing of Sworn Statements of Election Contributions and Expenditures by Candidates and Treasurers of Political Parties (Sec. 14 R.A. 7166)

..... **September 8, 2005**

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. IX
Cabatangan Hills, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit (COA), Regional Office No. 9, Zamboanga City, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites duly licensed suppliers/bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the bidding of the hereunder project:

Name of Project	*OFFICE SERVICE VEHICLE*
Location	*Zamboanga City*
Brief Description	Procurement of Five (5) units Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV) for COA Regional Office No. 9, Zamboanga City
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	*P4,000,000.00*
Delivery Period	within 30 calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 31, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 7, 2005, 9am
3. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 19, 2005, 9am
4. Bid Evaluation	September 19, 2005
5. Post-qualification	September 19, 2005, 1.30pm

Bid Documents may be obtained from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)**.

Commission on Audit assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) FERMO T. AVILA
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 26 & Sept. 2, 2005)

ERRATUM

In the "Announcement of Intention to make a Tender Offer For Shares of APEX MINING CO., INC. published in page B9 of the Philippine Daily Inquirer (August 26, 2005 issue), a slight error (not the fault of PDI) was inadvertently made. The figure (Php 0.6723) in line 12 thereof should read (Php 0.6724) to coincide with the amount in words preceding it.

For: Mapula Creek Gold Corporation
Crew Gold Corporation

Sgd. Atty. Leo Cleto A. Gamolo
Chairman/President-Mapula Creek Gold Corporation
Authorized Representative-Crew Gold Corporation

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

Supreme Court
Committee on Halls of Justice-Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the repair and rehabilitation of the Halls of Justice Tuguegarao City, Aparri, Cagayan and Baler, Aurora.

The estimated contract periods and the approved budgets for each of the contract packages to be sourced from the Judiciary Development Fund, are as follows:

CONTRACT PACKAGE	APPROVED BUDGET	COMPLETION PERIOD
1. Repair and Rehabilitation of the Tuguegarao City Hall of Justice	Php 1,426,008.87	Thirty (30) Calendar Days
2. Repair and Rehabilitation of the Aparri, Cagayan Hall of Justice	Php 1,899,805.05	Sixty (60) Calendar Days
3. Repair and Rehabilitation of the Baler, Aurora Hall of Justice	Php 1,697,977.71	Sixty (60) Calendar Days

Eligibility forms shall be available upon submission of the Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility at the Committee on Halls of Justice-Secretariat, 7th Floor Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila.

Interested bidders are advised to take note of the following schedules:

Submission of Letter of Intent and Application for Eligibility	08 to 13 September 2005
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	20 September 2005, 9:00 am Old Session Hall, Supreme Court
Issuance of Bid Documents *(upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php1,000.00 per package)*	27 September to 04 October 2005
Pre-Bid Conference	18 October 2005, 9:30 am Old Session Hall, Supreme Court
Submission and Opening of Bids	04 November 2005, 9:30 am Old Session Hall, Supreme Court

Awards shall be made to the bidders who submit the lowest calculated responsive bid and who are post-qualified. Criteria for the eligibility check of the prospective bidders, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification and all matters relevant to this procurement shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184 and its IRR.

For additional information, contact Atty. Peter John Javier or Engr. Arnold Paradero at (02) 552-9589 to 94 or send an e-mail to chojbac@yahoo.com.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to the Court or to waive any defect or informality therein.

02 September 2005

(Original Signed)
CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Chairman, CHOJ-BAC

(PDI – Sept. 2 & 9, 2005)

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* artisans (calligraphy, face painting of Chinese characters)
* Feng Shui reader
* songs and dances by the 24-member Macau Dance Troupe

September 2-8, Lunch and Dinner
Macau Food Festival
Garden Cafe, EDSA Shangri-La Hotel
(open to paying patrons)

A superb culinary experience of Macanese specialties from the recipes of Chefs Chon Kin Kei, Wong Yuk Shan and Wong Man Su from Macau's Institute for Tourism Studies

Edsa Shangri-La MANILA

MACAU GOVERNMENT TOURIST OFFICE Philippines

Shangri La Plaza

Maynilad to invest ₱500M

By Christine A. Gaylican

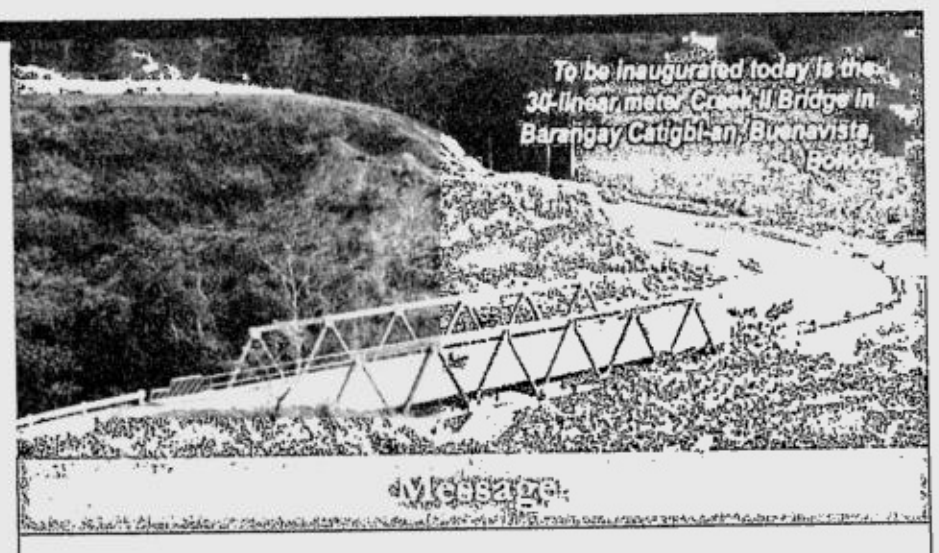
WATER concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc. will invest an additional P500 million this year to service more customers in the west zone.

Maynilad president Fiorello Estuar said the additional capital expenditure would be used to install additional pipelines and repair old ones before the year ends.

This would increase Maynilad's capex, derived from internally generated funds, to P1.25 billion this year.

"We are still targeting a positive bottom line this year with further improvement on service and area development," he told the INQUIRER.

Bohol Bridge Inauguration Highlights Waagner Biro +MCE Presence in RP



The Department of Public Works and Highways and the Austrian Bridges Consortium Waagner Biro + MCE today inaugurates the completed 30 linear-meter Creek II Bridge in Buenavista, Bohol.

The structure forms part of the Austrian-assisted DPWH Bridge Construction/ Replacement Project which saw the recent completion of the 40-linear meter Caningu-an Bridge in Lambunao, Iloilo and the 30-linear meter Linapawan Bridge in Roxas, Palawan.

Under the program, Waagner Biro Philippines Inc. performs pilot bridge construction, design & supply of bridging materials, engineering services and the training of local engineers.

To date, the program has been successful in the delivery of 170 spans in 112 bridge sites totalling 7,825 linear meters.

306 Bridges completed for DILG

Waagner Biro likewise participated in the Austrian-assisted President's Bridge Program Phase II which includes the design and supply of 12,250-linear meters of bridging materials consisting of 347 bridge spans.

These bridges are spread out in 306 locations in all 15 regions of the Philippines.

One of its showcase bridges is the 3-span, double lane, 140-linear meter Tamdagan Bridge in Vintar, Ilocos Norte completed in 2003.

The program includes the transfer of technical know-how from Waagner Biro to the different engineers of the various local government units.

Only bridge undamaged in Quezon floods

Another bridge constructed by Waagner Biro is the Kuyapi Bridge in General Nakar, Quezon which was the only bridge that survived the heavy flashfloods in that province last December, 2004. Typhoon "Winnie" caused severe flooding in the three coastal towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar and left more than 300 dead. The durability of the Kuyapi Bridge greatly helped in sparing more lives of residents in the area.

Permanent Modular Steel Bridge: a century of engineering excellence

A 150-year-old Austrian engineering and construction company, Waagner Biro developed and perfected its bridge design starting in the early 1900s. The permanent modular steel bridge design and structure is widely utilized for heavy-duty functions and is adaptable to almost any bridge requirement. These bridges have a tremendous 100-year lifespan with high load capacity that make them suitable for any type of roads and highways .

The 3-span, 140-linear meter Tamdagan Bridge in Vintar, Ilocos Norte is a fine example of Waagner Biro's permanent modular steel bridge design.

20,000 linear meters of bridges in the Philippines

To date, Waagner Biro has constructed or has been directly involved in the construction of 418 bridges for a total of more than 20,000 linear meters. Waagner Biro has been in the Philippines since 1996 and completed its first bridge in San Miguel, Bulacan in 2001. Wagner Biro has proven its worth as a solid partner in Philippine countryside development as its structures have directly improved the lives of several million Filipinos.

BRIDGING TRADE RELATIONS

AUSTRIA

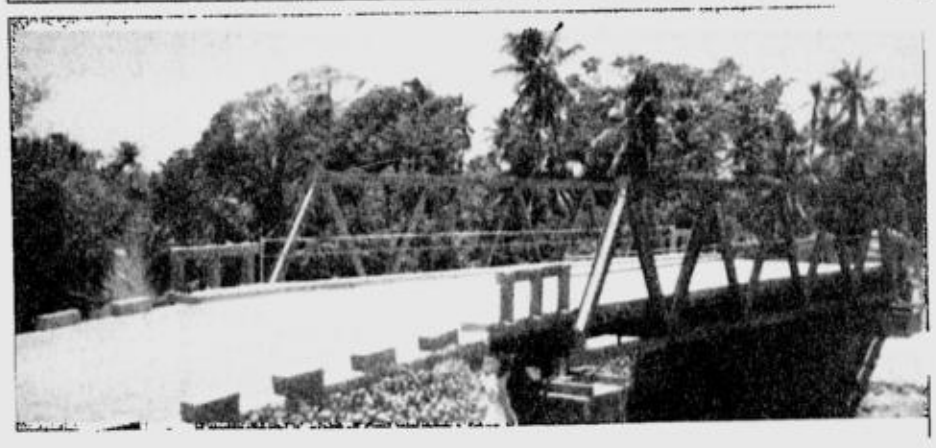
I am pleased to reaffirm the commitment of the Austrian government along with the Austrian industries in further developing its bilateral partnership with the Philippines.

Instrumental to this partnership are the efforts of Waagner Biro and its Austrian Consortium Partner MCE in the President's Bridge Program Phase II of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, which involves the construction of more than 300 permanent modular steel bridges and the Bridge Construction/ Replacement Project of more than 100 of these structures.

Austria remains to be a strong partner in promoting growth and development in the Philippines. This can be attested by the construction of these bridges, which have made substantial social impact on the lives of millions of Filipinos. They have contributed greatly in spurring growth and bringing progress to the communities.

I am confident that with the success of the aforementioned bridge projects, the Austrian Trade Commission will be able to encourage more Austrian investments in the country, thereby strengthening the bilateral relations between Austria and Philippines.

DR. WALTER HOEFLE
Austrian Trade Commissioner



The 25-linear meter Kuyapi Bridge in General Nakar, Quezon was the only bridge left undamaged by the floods caused by Typhoon "Winnie" last December, 2004.

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BETTER BEST

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

All systems go for 19th Ad Congress

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WILL IT push through? Yes, it will.

The 19th Philippine Advertising Congress has been dealing with hitches from day one, but all engines are running, and the number of registrants has hit 70 percent of the target.

There was talk going around that the Congress was not pushing through because of the pullout of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) from the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard), the umbrella organization of the advertising industry that holds the Congress every two years.

The bi-annual event gathers advertising practitioners and students to discuss the trends and issues affecting the industry.

The KBP is important largely because the members are from TV and radio—among the major sources of sponsorships and participants to the Congress.

Two years ago, GMA-7 pulled out from the KBP. This year, KBP, largely encouraged by ABS-CBN, which was the main mover of the 18th PAC held in Baguio, pulled out.

According to a previous report in the INQUIRER, the pullout followed policy disagreements on how to treat commercial overloading among broadcast stations.

At the heart of the issue is the 18-minute limit on the ads that can be run in an hour on TV.

GMA left the KBP two years ago, thus enabling it to sell ads beyond the limit.

This gave GMA a boost in revenues to tune of as much as P500 million a month—an amount ABS-CBN would like to get a piece of, particularly after sliding down to the number two behind GMA.

But KBP is not totally closed to the possibility of going back. The issue, however, is still being threshed out.

The two networks have traditionally been big sponsors of the Congress, with one trying to outdo each other.

In the 2001 Congress, GMA raffled off P1 million while ABS-CBN raffled off over P500,000 worth of prizes.

Why attend

The huge number of early bird registrants to the Congress however, assures the public that despite the controversies, this year's event to be held at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu will be a success.

"Our industry is in disarray with a leadership crisis that echoes that of the nation's. It's precisely during a time of crisis that the industry needs to unite to survive. The Ad Congress is the strongest signal that the industry will pull through this moment of crisis," states Yoly V. Ong, chair of Campaigns and Grey, one of the country's largest advertising companies.

Pedro Dy-Liacco, chair of the 17th PAC and communications director of Nestlé Philippines Inc. says "the Congress remains an important industry event. It allows people to interact more openly in a very informal manner. The Congress continues to be a relevant undertaking by the industry."

Dy-Liacco admits it is "a unique challenge to organize this year but the pull-out of KBP should not get in the way of a successful Congress."

He says Nestlé will send a delegation to the Congress to be held on Nov. 16-19, 2005.

AdBoard chair Raul Alvarez adds that the Congress remains relevant in this time of political and economic crises which the nation faces.

"Despite the seeming divisiveness of the advertising industry as one of its pillars, the KBP, chose to withdraw from the Adboard, I remain steadfast in my belief that the issues can be resolved," he says.

"Advertising remains a potent force that stimulates economic activity. Consumption starts with awareness and stimulation, which the advertising industry is tasked to accomplish. Aside from sheer financial size, a robust advertising industry reflects a progressive nation. A congress held once every two years is a clear manifestation that the industry is as dynamic and as prosperous as ever," he adds.

He also says that this year's theme of "Getting Ready for the World?!" envisions the emergence of world-class Filipino ads in the international arena.

"Adboard is determined to consistently support this vision by developing an annual program to achieve such objective complete with financial support," he says.

What to expect

This year's Congress has an impressive lineup of speakers. The Programs Committee, chaired by McCann Erickson Philippines' Venus R. Navalta, reported that there will be 10 plenary sessions.

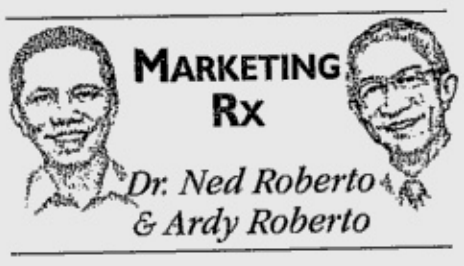
Mike Amour, CEO Asia Pacific of Grey Global Group, will speak on "Shifting Brand Paradigms: What Constitutes a Strong Brand in the Age of the Empowered Consumer."

Michelle Kristula-Green, Leo Burnett Asia-Pacific, will tell the audience about "Miss Understood: She's not Buying your Ads."

Emily A. Abrera, chair emeritus of McCann-Erickson Phils., will co-present with a foreign speaker an assessment of how Filipino attitudes, humor and behavior reflect on advertising, in a talk on "Filipinos Culture: Why we Show what we Show in our Advertising."

PEDRO Dy-Liacco Jr. declares the 17th Advertising Congress open at the Waterfront Hotel. TONEE DESPOJO

Que sera, sera - questions that marketers ask - part 2



HERE'S the continuation of our answers to short questions from our readers.

Q: We are in the transport business and we are gravely affected by the socio-political situation in the country and the continuing increase in gas prices. I have a serious problem with stabilizing our rates. What is the best solution to this problem?

A: Here's an insight to bear in mind when dealing with this kind of question:

"Fit the solution to the problem. A marketing problem requires a marketing solution. A non-marketing problem requires a non-marketing solution."

As you said yourself, your business is beset by two non-marketing problems. The first is a "socio-political" problem. Marketing can't solve that.

Your other problem is a global problem emanating from the Opec members. That problem is beyond you. ... and so is the first one.

Here's Reinhold Niebuhr's prayer to help you, or at least comfort you while these external threats to the health of your business prevail: "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen."

Ethics

Q: How can we reconcile a market-driven approach in a market where unethical practices abound? For example, in government biddings, and in pharmaceutical marketing?

A: We need to clarify the two major parts of your question. The first is about unethical practices. The second is the concept of market-driven marketing.

As far as the first part is concerned, the questionable assumption is that government biddings and pharmaceutical marketing are governed by unethical practices. The reality of course is that there are ethical, as well as unethical, government bidding and pharmaceutical marketing practices.

As to the market-driven concept, that starts from where the customers or consumers are. That is, with the customers' values and needs, and then focusing and delivering on those priority values and needs with competitive distinctiveness.

When your customer (say, a government office) in a government bidding wants you to deliver on their priority needs along ethical lines, there should be no problem, and therefore no reconciling necessary, in abiding by the dictates of market-driven marketing. The same goes for your customers (say, the doctors or drugstores) in pharmaceutical marketing.

So obviously, your reconciling problem arises when your customers want you to deliver on their priority needs along unethical lines. Unethical practices are typically corrupt practices. And corrupt practices are, or should be, governed by your company's "compliance program" and "ethics program."

A compliance program is basically a series of "thou-shalt-not's" with accompanying penalties for violation.

An ethics program is a values-formation program aimed at value change on your part as a decision-maker in the organization.

For example, if you find that you have to bribe your customer to get the business, or you're asked to give a bribe, your compliance program says "don't" because you'll be, for example, fired if you're caught.

On the other hand, your ethics program prepares you for coping with this moral challenge by giving you the moral strength to say "no."

So refer to your company's compliance and ethics programs. If you don't have such programs, this is as good a time as any to start having them.

Penetrating markets

Q: How do I penetrate the Class AB market?

A: This is one of those generic questions that we typically avoid answering in this column. However, we'll make an exception for now since this one has been asked so often.

Penetration and participation in any market segment should proceed along the same basic U-C-D process.

First, Understand the market segment priority values through market research.

Next, create the product that will distinctively satisfy those priority values.

And finally, deliver via supporting placement (or distribution), promotion (that is, by advertising, selling and sales promotion), and pricing the created priority value-satisfying product.

We've mentioned before that this is the new winning marketing formula: "STP*4Ps."

The market research driven STP makes up the consumer value-understanding first step. The value-creating step is the base P (or product design). And the remaining three support Ps (that is, placement, promo and pricing) make up the value-delivering step.

The old marketing formula is just the 4Ps. This is not to say that that was wrong. It's just incomplete.

Today, the new winning rule in market penetration says, always start with an understanding of where your consumers are, and not with where you are with your 4Ps.

Branching out

Q: Because of the continuing growth of malls, we can't help but open branches in most of them despite the problems of proximity and sharing of market. Please comment.

A: If you are in the retailing business (which seems to be the case), then what's key for you to remember is how the effective market size of your store is going to be defined by your store (or more precisely, your mall's) location, its neighborhood's shopping population, and the presence of competition in your trade area.

If your store's effective market size is large enough and has more than enough shoppers for a good number of competing stores, then proximity and market sharing are not a problem.

So ask your new mall developer for its neighborhood survey. If this survey was validly conducted, then it will provide you with the size of your shopping market.

Recall what we have previously said about market size. Do not confuse shopper market size with shopper population size.

To review, shopper market size of your store location is equal to: Neighborhood shopper population size x average shopping frequency x average shopping spending.

Then ask for the mall's trade area survey. This will be your source for estimating the competitive intensity you will face because this survey gathers data on the competing store participants in the mall's trade area.

Look for your store category and the number of participating competing stores in the category. That should give you a good idea of the kind of market sharing you are facing. Factor this competitive intensity into the neighborhood survey estimate of shopper market size and you get the picture of your "effective store market size."

So challenge your assumption that proximity and market sharing are a problem. Do the necessary market and competitive analysis first. Source the correct and valid data to analyze.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

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CAP Building, Bukidnon

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Iligan City
5:30-7:30 p.m.
MSU-IIT, Mini Theater, Iligan City

SEPTEMBER 6
Cagayan De Oro
6:30-8:30 p.m.
PhilTown Hotel, Cagayan De Oro

SEPTEMBER 7
Davao City
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Regency Inn, Davao City

SEPTEMBER 11
Bohol
2:00-4:00 p.m.
WRegent Plaza Hotel, C.P.G. Avenue Tagbilaran City, Bohol

SEPTEMBER 17
Manila
2:00-4:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Theater, La Salle Greenhills, Metro Manila

SEPTEMBER 22
Cebu
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Conference Hall A&B, SM Cebu, Cebu City

SEPTEMBER 24
Tacloban
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Ritz Tower de Leyte, Tacloban City, Leyte

SEPTEMBER 25
Iloilo City
3:00-5:00 p.m.
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2005 Metrobank Outstanding Teachers

DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION
From left: Manuel Belino, Ed.D., Amelia Castañeda, Julia Capulong, Vilma Cabrera, Diana Aure, Ph.D., Menia Alvidera, Janet Amurao , Maylani Galicia, Elnora Ordedor, and Rafael Bundoc, MD.

The essence of being an excellent teacher

Metrobank Foundation gives recognition to 10 outstanding teachers who have done a great job in shaping leaders and achievers

By Raquel P. Gomez, Joel V. Nigos and Marlet D. Salazar
Photo by Jim Guiao Punzalan

They are the people who shape the country's leaders and achievers. Their hard work is rewarded by their students' or pupils' achievements. They are part of the realization of their protégé's dreams. And they find simple joys with the thought that they have contributed to the makings of this nation's movers.

Metrobank Foundation recognizes the importance of teachers with the creation of the Metrobank Outstanding Teachers in 1985. The foundation aims to pay tribute to educators and extol teaching as a noble profession.

Aside from a generous cash prize and gold medallions for their efforts, the awardees are also presented to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in Malacañang. This award affirms the honor that is rightfully due to them.

The saying "teaching is a noble profession" refuses to be a forgotten cliché with teachers who dedicate their lives in educating the youth.

Warmest congratulations to Metrobank as you celebrate your 43rd Anniversary!

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Elementary

Julia R. Capulong
Padre Mariano Gomez Elementary Schoo, Manila

She never planned on teaching special kids, but an incident in her chosen vocation had changed everything.

Julia R. Capulong had been teaching for eight years then at the Padre Mariano Gomez Elementary School when a blind boy was mainstreamed in her regular Grade II class. To educate the boy had since then become her dilemma. She knew she could not simply employ the teaching strategies she had used with her regular pupils.

"That became a challenge for me. I asked myself, 'How can I educate this boy?'" she remembers.

One thing led to another and later she just found herself taking a Master of Arts' degree in SPED-Teaching the Visually Impaired at Philippine Normal College in 1976. She had originally obtained her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree also at PNC in 1966.

With a degree in special education, she then transferred to the Philippine School for the Blind. This exposed her to more visually-impaired children, which endeared her more to the profession. She never left SPED-teaching ever since.

After 10 years at PSB, Julia returned to P. Gomez.

There, she developed curricula and various teaching and reading materials, learning modules for the visually impaired, which had greatly improved the odds for the blind to learn and become more involved in the educational process. She also introduced creative and innovative multimedia instructional materials to effect quality outputs, which she says, "make teaching-learning more meaningful and effective."

She considers these as her greatest contribution to education since future SPED teachers would be able to use them as well.

Julia laments the lack of special education teachers in the country, but she hopes her story would serve as an inspiration for others to consider teaching special children.

At present, she has six special pupils under her in grades 1 to 5 who give her more fulfillment since all of them have been in the top 10

BEING/ B2-3

Being an excellent teacher

From page B2-2

of their respective classes. Previously, she had two pupils who were topnotchers of their classes.

She believes that children are like sponges who absorb everything.

"If you feed them with positive things like good values, then they will grow up with those in mind and they will never part with it. It will be their guiding principles and their decisions will be based on these values," she says.

She adds that our children are our only hope for the future, but we are their only hope for the present and their future. "It is my mission and commitment to deliver quality education to the special children that enhances their talents and potentials so that they will have the greatest opportunity to experience productive and useful lives needed to build a strong nation," she explains.

Julia is the 2nd awardee from the school and 49th from the City of Manila. She's been teaching since 1967.

She has received numerous awards, among them the Most Outstanding Special Education Teacher for the Visually-Impaired (National Level) by DECS-BEE in 1998 and was also the Bayaning Guro National finalist and regional winner, Gawad Geny Lopez Jr Bayaning Pilipino in 2004.

Amelia C. Castañeda

Sto. Cristo Elementary School, Tarlac City

Amelia C. Castañeda, who teaches English and Science at Sto. Cristo Elementary School in Tarlac City, holds the distinction of being the first Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardee from the school. She is also the fourth recipient of the award from Tarlac City.

The only daughter among 10 siblings, Amelia shares she was encouraged by her parents to become a teacher primarily because she was their only daughter. Her brothers eventually took up Business, Marine and Animal Husbandry courses.

She doesn't have any regrets though, as fulfillment for her came since she became a regular teacher. She loves her work, and at the same time enjoys being with kids, teaching them and guiding them. That love and enjoyment for her profession has lasted 37 years.

Amelia says she gets her inspiration from our national hero Jose Rizal, who said, "The youth are the hope of our fatherland."

"As a teacher, I take the challenge of our national hero. It is my prime duty to mold the youth to become good and responsible citizens of our country. My role, therefore, is to make the children literate, imbued with values of honesty, integrity, self-reliance, God-fearing, and later become principled leaders of the nation. I should provide them the necessary skills and attitude so that they will become resourceful, productive and globally competitive citizens," she says, adding that this also has become her teaching philosophy.

For her, the Metrobank award is an indication that she has performed well in the vocation that she chose.

Asked what made her win the outstanding teacher award, she says that it was her unselfish service to her pupils, her humble contribution to the educational system and the values that she taught to the pupils.

"For me, it is the greatest performance of my life. After 37 years of sincere and dedicated service to the youth and the community, I am now harvesting the sweet fruit of my labor. It pays to be a teacher, to be a worker," she shares.

Amelia obtained her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education major in General Education degree from Far Eastern University in 1967, while she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching major in Guidance and Counseling from Tarlac State University in 2000.

Menia S. Alvidera

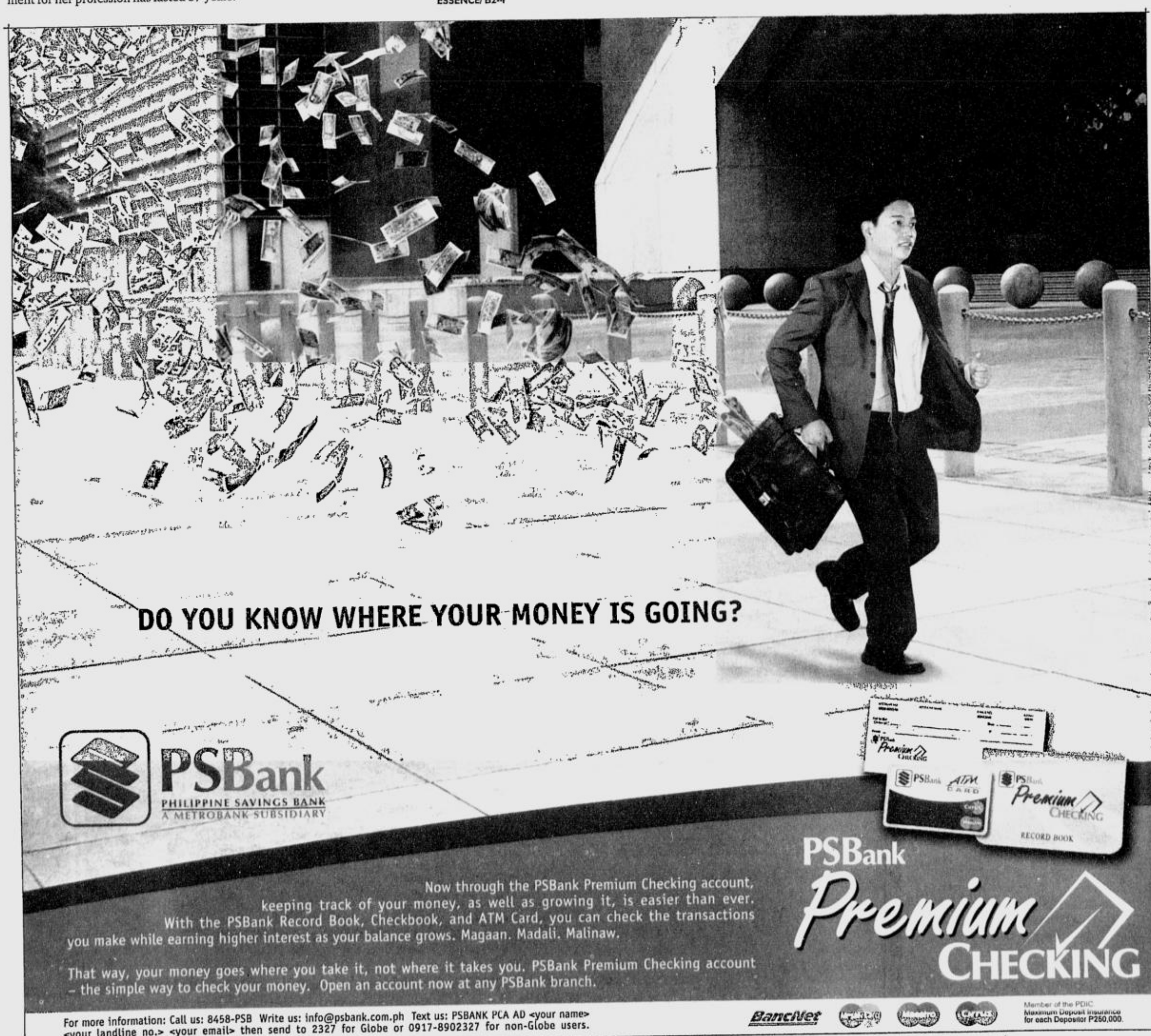
President Manuel Roxas Memorial School South, Roxas City

Most teachers set their sights on working in a school in the city. Some teachers, however, find fulfillment in spending their time with children in rural areas.

But for teacher Menia S. Alvidera, rural means an island near her hometown in Capiz. It was her first teaching job, and she relished every minute of it.

Alvidera spent most of her week in that island, 30 minutes away from her hometown via pump boat. She didn't see it as a hardship

ESSENCE/ B2-4



The essence of being an excellent teacher

From page B2-3

but an opportunity to impart her knowledge, efforts, and simple love for children who needed an education.

Alvidera first took up BS Commerce major in Accounting to fulfill the wishes of her father. But her desire to become a teacher never waned. After earning her degree, she asked her father if she could finally fulfill her true mission in life to become a teacher. She then took up BS in Elementary Education major in General Education in 1987.

Her aunt, also a teacher, was one of the reasons she chose this profession. And Alvidera knows that she made the right decision.

Now, Alvidera works at the President Manuel Roxas Memorial School South. She also heads the city's Division Guidance Counselors Association. Her efforts to improve education in her province ranges from facilitating workshops and training programs for other teachers to joining projects for non-readers and slow learners. She is the school's guidance counselor and the intermediate relief teacher.

But all these are just icing on the cake. She feels that her achievements are not quantified by the awards she gets but her contribution to the students.

"My commitment and dedication to my work, my pupils' achievements and successes, are my greatest contribution to education," Alvidera said.

Aside from becoming a teacher, Alvidera once dreamed of becoming a nun. This thought does not come as a surprise, because all the members of her family are devout Catholics.

Although this childhood dream remains unfulfilled, one of the children she once played and shared lunch with in the island fulfilled it for her. Now a Franciscan sister, this girl gave her a surprise visit three years ago. Tearful yet happy, Alvidera instantly realized that God had other missions for her.

"I felt I was made an instrument of God for these children," she said. "I saw myself in her and I know in my heart that somehow, my dreams are fulfilled."

She fondly recalls those times in the island when she and that girl would pick seashells along the shore.

"I find happiness and joy in teaching and just being with children," she said.

Being a teacher is not limited to teaching the basics, according to Alvidera.

"An ideal teacher is a person who can be a surrogate parent, a model, a guidance counselor, a friend, a civic worker, a community leader, and a disciplinarian," she said.

Alvidera is the first to become Metrobank's Outstanding Teacher for the school, and joins the other four awardees of Roxas City.

"This recognition not only affirms my profession as a teacher but also gives honor to my parents and siblings who have remained supportive of me all this time," Alvidera said.

Vilma Cabrera

Master teacher II,
Ilagan South Central School

Vilma Cabrera, master teacher II of Ilagan South Central School couldn't forget the one school day she spent with a class in a far-flung *barangay* in her province. She was then assigned as a multi-grade teacher in a school located in an area infested by the New People's Army. Her class was in a middle of a discussion when gunshots reverberated through the air; an encounter between the NPA and the military was ensuing.

"For five hours, we were trapped inside the room. We feared we might be affected by the clash between the soldiers and the NPA. But God was good, He protected us."

Aside from such an experience, Cabrera had to walk two hours to reach some schools in the remote areas.

Cabrera, now married, wanted originally to be a nun. She considers herself a "frustrated nun," but she says the teaching career, nonetheless, was the nearest to a religious vocation.

"I am inspired by the works of Christ as I continuously ponder on his life through reading the Bible. This keeps me going with my teaching profession. There is a sense of fulfillment in me every time I see children enjoy the fun of learning. I consider them gems of treasures of the earth that need to be nurtured."

Cabrera teaches English. She describes herself as "output-oriented." "I see to it that there is one hundred percent mastery of skill taught. If pupils are not able to cope, I give remedial instruction unmindful of the extra time that I render to the pupils.

Her students are fond of her." "As a teacher, I want to be remembered as a child-friendly teacher," she says. "A teacher who was able to touch their lives by becoming a part of the realization of their dreams."

Cabrera implemented the Project on Basic Education (Probe) and conducted in-service training programs. She also provided instructional materials and shared teaching techniques and strategies to teachers in Science, English and Mathematics in the different satellite schools of the Probe project.

Elnora T. Ordedor

Dapa National High Sc
Surigao del Norte

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METROBANK @ 43

CONQUERING THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

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Keeping a tradition of leadership

The largest bank in the country celebrates its 43rd anniversary

MORE than four decades and it now has the widest network and occupies the top position in the banking industry in the country. Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (Metrobank) is strongly keeping its top position in the industry.

Since it opened its first branch in Divisoria in August 1963, Metrobank is steadily growing with 577 local branches and 14 in other countries. Davao is its first provincial bank which was opened in 1967. In the 1970s, the bank established its first international branch in Taipei.

George S.K. Ty partnered with other businessmen in setting up what is now the largest bank in the country.

It serves the middle-market businesses and is also the leading provider of trade finance in the Philippines. The bank now has the widest product and services scopes that aim to tap all market bases.

Its 43 years of existence has been marked with many breakthroughs.

In 1974, the bank's resources hit the P1-billion mark; it is also at this time that Metrobank acquired equity in the First Metro Investment Corp. Three years later, Central Bank authorized the bank to operate a Foreign Currency Deposit Unit. At the beginning of the 1980s, it was allowed to operate as a universal bank.

This was followed by opening of more branches as its clientele continuously grows. In almost two decades, its branches, offices, and subsidiaries surpassed the 200 mark.

All these achievements are attributed to the trust and confidence of its depositors and investors.

Metrobank's president Antonio Abacan Jr. said, "We are proud of our achievements, knowing that our team's hard work and dedication have paid off."

Its business ventures proved to be a great contributor to its assets and gaining

TRADITION/ B2-7

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The English teacher from Dapa National High School, Dapa, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, took up the challenge of helping the child to learn.

"It was mixed emotions of anger and compassion," she recalled of the child's inability to read. "Anger because how could his former teachers allow him to reach high school without making it a point that he learned something?"

She started holding weekend classes not only for this child but for other slow-learners as well. She encouraged them with play and would call them one by one to read on the special lessons she prepared.

Ordedor's becoming a Metrobank Outstanding Teacher is a significant feat for her and the school. She is the first awardee from Dapa National High School and the first from Surigao del Norte.

Ordedor was named as an Outstanding Public School Teacher in the Division Level of DepEd-Siargao in 2002. She was also cited as an Outstanding School Paper Adviser in the National Level in 1999 and Regional Level the year before.

It warms her heart when she sees her former students become successful in their chosen careers and become good examples for their families and communities.

Her pleasant personality makes it easier for her and her students build a good relationship. Although she considers teaching students with learning difficulties quite challenging, Ordedor never fails to encourage them to study harder and to love learning new things.

Ordedor describes herself as creative, hardworking, committed, and dedicated to her profession.

"An ideal educator for me is someone who has mastered the subject matter, professional, efficient, effective, and always prepared," she said.

Being an educator is her way of doing her part in nation-building.

"I will teach by example and practice what I preach," she said. "I will be a law-abiding citizen. I will try to help develop the students to become responsible and credible."

Because of that unforgettable experience with her first year student, Ordedor vows to teach only on the first year high school level for as long as she is needed there.

Maylani L. Galicia

Ligao National High School, Albay

In the movies, the second choice for the role often ends up reaping the awards or hitting it big in the box-office.

This proved true to Maylani L. Galicia of Ligao National High School. The first nominee of the school suddenly went abroad and she was the replacement. It turned out that Galicia would be the one who would give honor to her school as having been its first awardee and the first from Ligao City, Albay.

She graduated cum laude from the Philippine Normal University with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. She then completed her Master of Science in Teaching Mathematics from the Ateneo de Manila University.

Galicia feels that how she was able to help shape the student to become successful is her main source of inspiration and fulfillment.

"I feel satisfied when they demonstrate a positive attitude and exhibit an increased level of interest toward learning Math," the 31-year-old teacher said.

She believes that her will to inspire others — not only with the students but also with her fellow teachers — to do their best is her greatest contribution in the teaching profession.

Her thirst for learning leads her to further readings and research. Whatever she finds she could use in school, Galicia adopts them to her lessons.

"I usually collect challenging Math problems, games, and puzzles which I keep in my 'bag of tricks'," she said.

All Galicia wanted after high school was to study in a good university in Manila. But the family didn't have enough resources to support her dream. Nothing, though, would stop Galicia from making her dream come true. Her hard-work paid off when she got a scholarship from the Department of Science and Technology.

"For me, a teacher can only be considered successful if the learner has learned," she said, "Otherwise, the teacher has not taught."

Galicia believes that teaching is not limited to information dissemination alone. She said a teacher should be competent both in content and strategy. One also must have a heart for the learner.

Galicia relates her experience in teaching more than 70 students in a class under a small nipa cottage. The place was so cramped that when they raised their hands, chances were "they almost touched the different parts of my body."

When it rained, she joined her students in sitting on top of the tables to avoid the flooded floor.

She initiated parental involvement in mathematical learning in schools. This way, the parents could help their children who were having difficulty in learning the subject—a brilliant idea that would benefit the whole family.

Galicia is awed by the fact that she is a part of this year's Metrobank Outstanding Teacher.

"I'm trying to convince myself that I do possess the qualities of an outstanding teacher," she said, "There are still many things that I need to accomplish, I hope I'm worth the honor of being regarded as outstanding."

Diana Aure

University of the Philippines Visayas, Iloilo City

Dr. Diana Aure, associate professor of Mathematics and director of the graduate program office, University of the Philippines Visayas, was a reluctant teacher. She wanted to be an engineer and a manager of a sugar mill in Negros Occidental like her cousin. But her parents discouraged her, since the engineering course during that time was a course considered for males only.

So the likely choice for a course for Aure that somehow approximates an engineering course, a course filled with Math and Science subjects, was a degree in Education major in Physical Sciences.

After graduation from college, Aure taught Physics and Mathematics at the Bacolod City High School. From there, Aure's career in teaching and her preference for teaching High School students got underway.

She was the idealistic young teacher, who spent extra time and weekends with her students to do science research projects. Her students joined science fairs and Math quizzes and won in the local and regional levels and became finalists in the national level.

"The extra time spent with my students was very rewarding," she says. "I was positive that teaching was the job for me."

She then went to UP Visayas and became a substitute teacher for the High School. After she earned her Master's degree, she became a full-time faculty.

"My life at UP was very challenging. I can choose to teach, do research, or ad-

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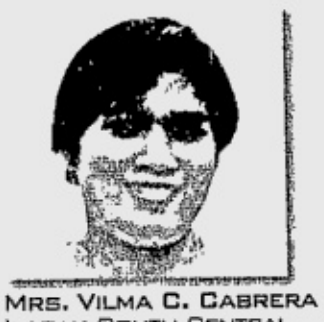
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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA

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Metrobank Art and Design winners announced

METROBANK Foundation Inc. proudly announced the winners of the 2nd Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE) National Competition. Five young talented painters, two sculptors, an architect and an interior designer beated close to a total of 500 contestants from around the country who joined this year.

Winning in the painting competition, Oil-Based Medium on Canvas category, are Chriseo C. Sipat, first place for his work entitled "God Bless Us"; Marnie S. Corpus, second place for "Can You Have Faith?" and Parker B. Encisa, third place for "The Evidence."

Emerging as winners in the Water Media on Paper category were Randie M. Gutierrez for "See-Through Cages," grand prize, and Joel John L. Valenzuela for "Hibing," special citation.

In the Sculpture category, John Leeroy C. New bagged the grand prize for his work entitled "Cradle" and Miguel G. Aquilizan, special citation for his "Timog Silangan Hilaga Kanluran Sculpture."

Marvin Tabaquin Ting and Noel T. Tan were the first to take home the plum in the newly introduced Interior Design and Architecture categories, respectively. Ting won for his "Vinta," interior design while Tan won for his proposed three-story residential architecture.

The first place winner in the painting competition, Oil on Canvas category, will receive P150,000, while the second and third place winners will get P100,000 and P120,000, respectively. On the other hand, winners in the Water Media on Paper, Sculpture, Architecture and Interior design categories will each take home P150,000. The first, second, third and grand prize winners will also be given a trophy specially designed by artist and former MADE winner Noell E. Farol, while those who got special citations will be awarded a plaque.

Now on its second year, the Metrobank Prize for Achievement in the Sculpture (MPAS) will be awarded to Duddley Diaz in recognition of his sustained outstanding talent, output and significant contribution to the development of Philippine sculpture. Diaz will receive a P50,000 cash prize and a commemorative specially designed by artist and former MADE winner Roberto Feleo.

This year's chairpersons of the board of judges are Anita Magsaysay-Ho, visual artist; Eduardo Castrillo, visual artist; Gerry Contreras, president of Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID) and Jose Siao Ting, president of Jose Siao Ting and Associates (architecture firm). The other judges are Bernvina Garcia, dean, School of Humanities at the Ateneo de Manila University; Cid Reyes, art critic and vice president of Ace Saatchi & Saatchi; Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, visual artist and founding president of Kasibulan; Ferdinand Doctolero, visual artist; Bete Hur Villanueva, visual artist and former professor at the Ateneo de Manila University; Charito Buenaventura-Peralta, dean of Institute of Fine Arts and Design at the Philippine Women's University; Dan Rafael, visual artist; Marvic Anonuevo, vice president of Avala Land Inc.; Arturo Alcantara, technical planning manager at Ortigas & Company Limited Partnership; Lorenzo Calma, president of Lor Calma Design & Associates Inc.; Maria Cristina Turalba, architect and vice chair of Active Realty; Robert Sacs, architect and president of Supra Steel Corp.; Philip Rector, principal architect at Philip Hy Rector Architects and Nestor Jardin, president of Cultural Center of the Philippines.

MADE winners will be awarded and recognized in a ceremony on September 15 at the Pavilion Roxas Boulevard corner Edsa, Metropolitan Park in Pasay City. This will be followed by the opening of an exhibit showcasing the winning and selected works from the different categories. The exhibit is open to the public beginning Sept. 16 to 21 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MADE was formerly known as the Young Painters' Annual (YPA) which has launched the careers of numerous painters since 1984. In 2004, Metrobank Foundation expanded its arts program to include competitions for sculpture, architecture and interior design competitions for architecture and interior design in recognition with cooperation with the United Architects of the Philippines and the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers.

'GOD Bless Us,' grand prize in the Oil on Canvas category by Chriseo C. Sipat.

GRAND Prize winner in the Water Media on Paper category is 'See-Through Cages' by Randie M. Gutierrez.

JOHN Leeroy C. New bagged the grand prize for this sculpture 'Cradle'.

We congratulate the winners of the Metrobank Foundation Inc. 2005 Outstanding Teachers

and we celebrate Metrobank's 43rd Anniversary, today.

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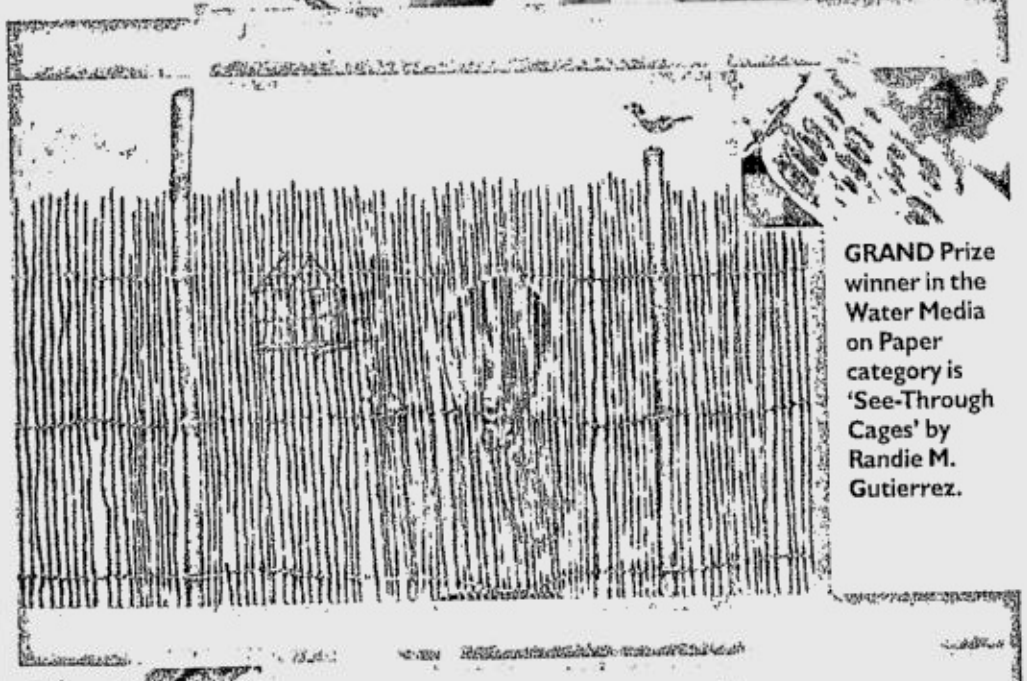

GRAND Prize winner in the Water Media on Paper category is 'See-Through Cages' by Randie M. Gutierrez.

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Keeping a tradition of leadership

From page B2-4

the top position. The acquisition of majority ownership of Philippine Savings Bank, the establishment of a joint travel agency ventures with Thomas Cook Group in Thomas Cook Phils. in 1986, and the tie-up with Toyota Motor Phils. in 1988.

The bank has carefully chosen its other business ventures opting to partner with renowned and established corporations like Sumigin Metro Investment Corp, the Tokai Bank of Japan to create Global Business Bank, the National Mutual Holdings Ltd. of Australia to create Phil. AXA Life Insurance Corp., and the Orix Leasing and Finance Corp. of Japan to create Orix Metro Leasing and Finance Corp.

"The bank's continuous efforts in enhancing its products and services have helped preserve patronage over the years," Abacan said.

In June 27 this year, its consolidated resources amounted to P550.25 billion affirming its top position in the industry. Its total capital stock stands at 51.88 billion.

"With this leadership position comes the responsibility to make even more meaningful contributions for the economic and social development of the communities that we serve," he added.

Along with all these growth, Metrobank is making its presence felt in various countries. It has branches in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Pusan, London, Shanghai, Beijing, Taipei, Kaohsiung, and Guam. This widens its reach for overseas Filipinos in these locations.

"Our extensive branch network and the availability or other delivery channels have also helped fuel loyalty from valued clients and brand familiarity with prospective customers," Abacan said.

Metrobank is set to continue to focus on internal strengthening its skills-building programs and improving its processes and systems, aimed at enhancing efficiency, productivity, and profitability, Abacan said.

High School

From page B2-5

ministrative work. I choose to serve UP in combination of all these. After 35 years and despite my other responsibilities, I am still a high school teacher - for the love, excitement and joys of teaching high school kids."

Aure's love for teaching Math can be traced to her mother, who was a public teacher. Aure considers her mother her "ideal teacher" and she dedicates the Metrobank Award to her.

"She was my first teacher at home and my first teacher at school. I learned to love Mathematics through her enthusiasm, patience and diligence."

And just like her mother, who was quite active in the community, Aure has her share of community service. She also served as a teacher volunteer who monitored, evaluated and helped promote the welfare of the Gurong Pahinungod volunteers of UPB in Tawi-tawi, Jolo, Sulu, Antique, and Guimaras.

Now 57 years old, Aure considers her retirement from teaching in the near future a "personal challenge." She wants to pursue an avenue related to teaching by establishing a school for preschoolers. "I believe I can have a greater impact and leave my mark as an educator if I establish a school for preschoolers."

"In life you have many choices, you can choose to do your tasks well, or you can choose to transcend yourself by giving the best that you can make, or what you are."

Janet Amurao
Marikina Science High School

As a young teacher, Janet Amurao welcomed being assigned as advisory teacher to "below-average" sections, or classes with students who had less aptitude or skills compared to students in top sections.

"Usually, a teacher who is assigned to handle the honor section as advisory feels proud thinking that he or she is the best teacher in the particular level. To me, it was the other way around."

She considers it a real challenge to transform these classes and help the students.

"The students really wanted to learn but they lacked the skills and capabilities to do so. Some of them couldn't even read properly, so how could they comprehend. I did something special for them. I drafted another lesson plan, presented Chemistry lesson using very simple words and very simple strategies."

Amurao opted for a teaching career because she wanted to make a difference. She considers teaching as her "life."

"I enjoy teaching so much that I no longer consider it as work but sheer enjoyment. When I am teaching, I never notice how time passes by."

In teaching Chemistry, Amurao employs Internet technology in presenting her lessons. She's currently handling Experimental Research in her school and she says information technology (IT) is very useful in providing information related to her students' projects.

The ideal teacher for Amurao is someone who inspires. "I wanted to inspire not only my students but other teachers like me. That we are not 'teacher *lang*' but are 'great teachers' who inspire."

A most awarded teacher, Amurao prepared the proposal and conducted research for the conversion of the MIST High School department into the Marikina Science High School.

College

Dr. Manuel Belino
De La Salle University, Taft Avenue, Manila

His list of achievements or awards runs for a mile, but the chief description threading the list has a lot to do with values education, theology, and ethics.

For Dr. Manuel Belino, who teaches engineering subjects at De La Salle University, the teaching profession isn't just a noble job but also a sort of "religious" vocation or a ministry.

"I would like to emphasize the ministerial dimension of teaching as a form of service to the Kingdom of God and as a gift of the Spirit, a charism," he says.

Throughout his teaching career, Belino has strived to strike a balance between technology and human values in engineering education through the integration of ethics across the curriculum.

The "source of joy" in his life as a teacher, he says, is in being able to "contribute to my students' holistic development and to have a strong influence in reinforcing positive values in their lives."

"Teaching as a ministry is not limited to the spiritual aspect of developing the youth but includes the psychological, intellectual, moral, social and physical aspects of the human person."

Belino, who considers becoming a De La Salle brother someday, was with the private sector, working as a design engineer, before the teaching profession snagged him and saved him from "boredom."

"I reflected and asked myself if I would do the same kind of work for the rest of my life. I decided to pursue a career in teaching so I could have an impact in preparing young men and women not just for a career in engineering but for a career in life."

Belino's values-laden style of teaching has accomplished results. Belino shares a story of one student who approached him after his talk about honesty in a class. The student, who was a class president, confessed she cheated in a quiz. Belino advised the student to tell the truth to her professor. "She did not graduate in college with honors but I knew she graduated in life with dignity and honors."

Currently, he is part of an international team of professors doing a research funded by the United States National Science Foundation. The project aims to produce teaching materials in engineering ethics that integrate ethical concerns and issues in textbooks in chemical processes and thermodynamics, which will be made available in the Internet.

The first person he called when word came that he won in the Metrobank search was his 75-year-old mother, who was very supportive of his endeavors. "She was very happy and started crying."

As to the winnings, Belino says he plans to give the money to the La Salle catechists, a group he's very fond of. Belino says that a La Salle catechist taught him his first class in religion.

Dr. Rafael C. Bundoc
UP College of Medicine, Manila

"I have been given due recognition for my clinical expertise and research undertakings, but have never received any national recognition for my dedication to teaching. Winning this award will close the gap to the endeavor that I have dedicated my life... to teach and to heal."

Thus says Dr. Rafael C. Bundoc, an associate professor IV at the UP College of Medicine specializing in orthopedics and Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardee for the college level.

Recipient of various awards including the Ten Outstanding Young Doctors given by the Philippine Jaycees, WHO, Philippine Medical Association and the Department of Health in February 2005; Ten Outstanding Young Scientist Award (in the field of Biomechanics) from the National Academy of Science and Technology in 2000; the Outstanding Inventor/Innovator's Award for his inventions assembly of a locally manufactured continuous passive motion machine (1994) and production of locally produced saw bones or virtual bone models (1996) from the Department of Science

COLLEGE/ B2-8

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College

From page B2-7

and Technology; and The Outstanding Young Men Award (in the field of medicine) from the Philippine Jaycees, Gerry Roxas TOYM Foundation in 1996, Rafael shares that the Metrobank Outstanding Teachers award made his career come full circle.

"My profession serves several purposes, as a doctor and a teacher. This award is my crowning glory, this gives due recognition to my achievements in teaching," he says.

Rafael literally grew up in the classroom. His mother, who was a public school English teacher, used to tag him along in the classroom when he was still a child because of problems getting a caretaker.

"I mingled, ate and played with teachers. Their profession was the first that made an imprint in my mind," he says adding that even when he was a medical student he still dreamt of becoming a teacher someday.

He gets his inspiration from Dr. Charles Norton, founder of the organization "Physicians for Peace" who once said, "When a doctor heals a patient, he stands to heal one person. When you teach students how to heal their patients, you stand to heal more, you heal humanity." Hearing these words, he says, convinced him to be a doctor and teacher at the same time.

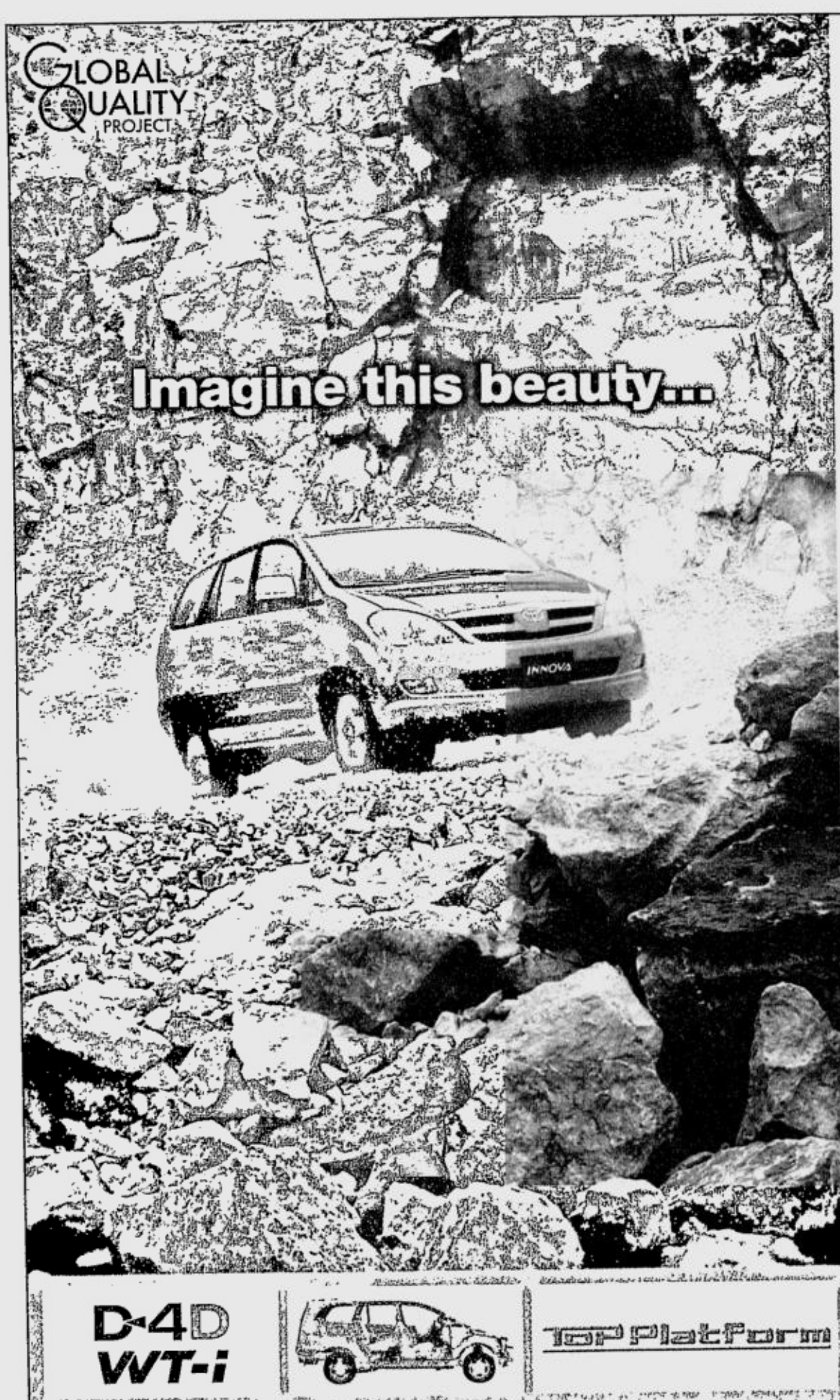
Rafael shares that he used to attend graduation ceremonies of his students.

"I get fulfillment when I see my students transform from greenhorns to almost full-fledged doctors of the country. When they pass the board exams, it gives me a penultimate pleasure of knowing that one way or another, I have contributed in molding the future healers of our nation."

Rafael is the 5th awardee from UP Manila. He considers his award as very special as the UP College of Medicine is celebrating its centennial this December. He says that having one of its faculty members win an award is a fitting testimony to its commitment in providing quality education to the future healers of the country.

He finished his Bachelor of Arts major in Humanities degree (cum laude) from the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1978 and his doctor of medicine degree from UP Manila in 1985.

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT



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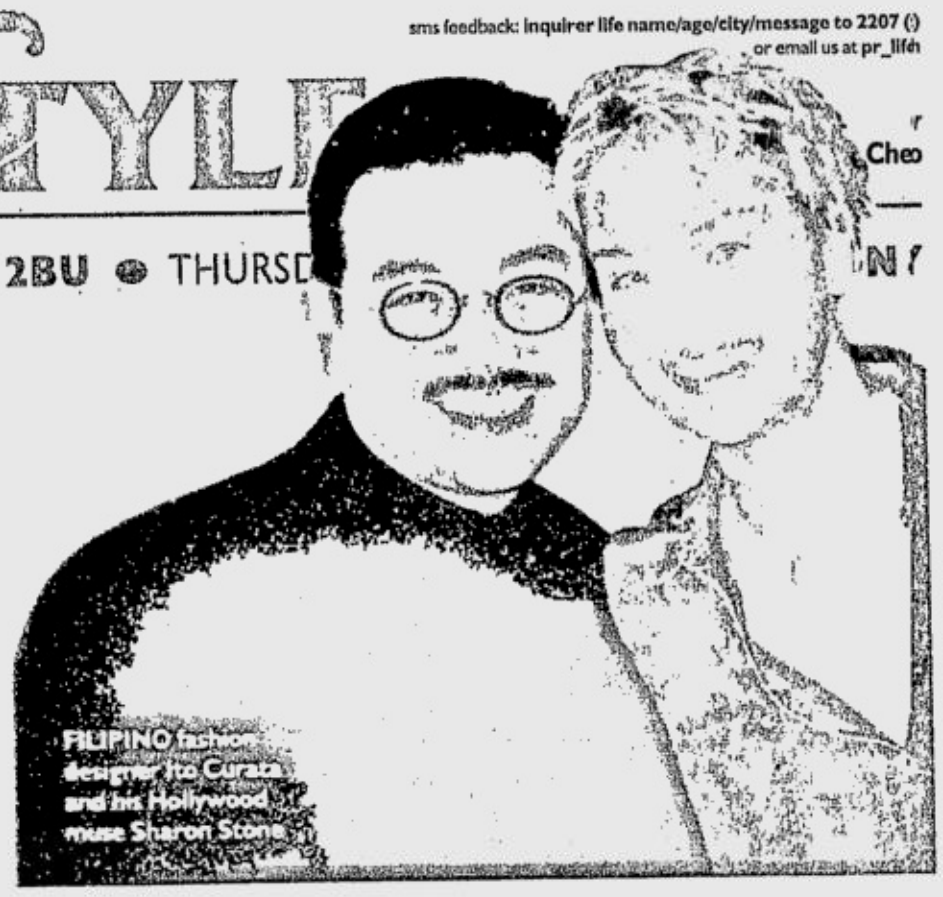
'It' boy of Philippine fashion



FILIPINO fashion designer Ito Curata and his Hollywood muse Sharon Stone

CURATA describes his clothes as "sexy but glamorous." Fashion, he says, should never be too overdone or too studied. Model wears bias-cut A-line skirt of mauve tafetta and wraparound silk halter blouse with velvet trimmings.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

ITO Curata's meteoric rise in local fashion is nothing short of phenomenal. In three short years, the fashion designer has achieved what some of his colleagues have taken decades to do.

Apart from being one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's preferred designers, he has also been dressing up a growing number of Tinseltown's loveliest such as Lani Mercado, Angel Locsin, Maricel Soriano and Cherie Gil.

If there's one person who's the least surprised by the feat, it's Curata himself. His is no overnight success, he says, but the product of years of hard work and luck, which began in 1977 with a scholarship at Clarion State College in Pennsylvania.

His initiation into fashion actually started much earlier. Curata, the fourth of five children from Batangas City, used to hand-sew miniature gowns and *ternos* for his sisters' Barbie dolls.

"I did a year in UP before applying for a scholarship in the US," he says. "I was accepted at Clarion, but I found the pace there a bit slow so I decided to move elsewhere."

Curata first thought of moving to Parsons in New York. Since he had relatives in the Bay Area, he eventually settled in the West Coast, where he earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts major in painting at the University of San Francisco. That was a little over a decade before he and Sharon Stone would cross paths.

It took him another six years to open his first shop. In the meantime, Curata worked as a trust account officer for a bank in the Bay Area. Through it all, he didn't abandon his dream of becoming a designer. In fact, he was already designing clothes for friends and officemates during his off hours.

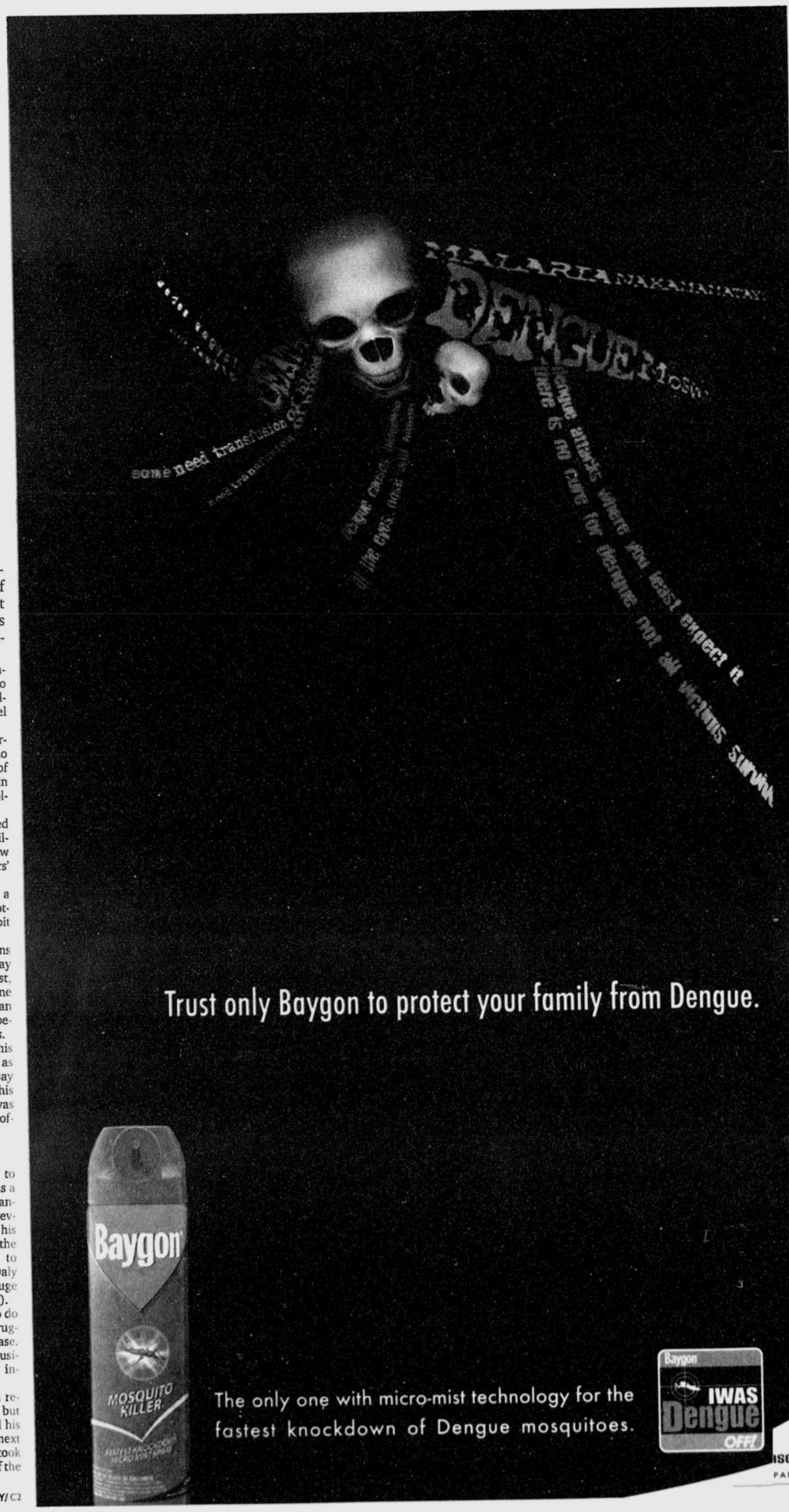
Venturing out

When the bank decided to assign him to Los Angeles, the reluctant banker took it as a cue to quit the scene and stay put in San Francisco to pursue his first love. He used his severance pay as seed money to realize his dream. Instead of setting up shop in the downtown area, however, Curata opted to open one across a McDonald's outlet in Daly City (a.k.a. "Adobo" City because of the huge Filipino-American community based there).

"It seemed like the most logical thing to do back then," he says. "Since I was still a struggling designer, I felt I needed an ethnic base. Other than that, I had no idea where the business was headed. I relied purely on my instincts."

As fate would have it, Curata found a receptive market not only among Filipinos, but also among exuberant Latinos, who liked his figure-flattering designs. Since he knew next to nothing about cutting and sewing, he took the opportunity to learn the finer points of the craft from his Filipino staff.

'IT' BOY/ C2



IF AUGGIE Cordero has Audrey Hepburn as his virtual muse, Curata sometimes looks up to Grace Kelly for inspiration. Strapless celadon-green gown with electric-pleated fishtail is made of shantung silk and adorned with the designer's fancy brooch.

In designing for women with disparate statures and tastes such as Sharon Stone, GMA and 'Darna,' Ito Curata relied on instincts and good old-fashioned hard work

HE considers Pepito Albert, another Filipino designer who first made it big in the US, as one of the country's best. Casual glam to Curata consists of a one-piece lace gown with plunging neckline and adorned with cut beads.

'It' boy of Philippine fashion

CLOTHES:
ITO CURATA (0917-8584535)
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
JIGS MAYUGA OF SHU UEMURA
MODEL:
JO ANN BITAGCOL
SHOT ON LOCATION
AT THE DESIGNER'S RESIDENCE

THE DESIGNER cites Halston, Ferre, Valentino, Dior, Galliano and Lacroix among his idols. His two-piece black ensemble consists of a silk shantung skirt with ruffles and hints of beadwork and a sleeveless knitted top.

From page C1

"I soaked up everything like a sponge," he says. "That's one good thing about doing business in the US. You learn to multitask because labor is expensive."

Curata didn't mind cleaning Big Mac wrappers and plastic glasses that found their way in front of his shop, but he soon realized after a year that he needed to relocate to San Francisco if he were to go mainstream.

He did just that by renting a hole in the wall located between Pacific Heights and Russian Hill, two of the city's more classy neighborhoods. The work area, an industrial affair with an exposed ceiling that revealed a series of pipes (long before the look became in), was located in the basement, just above the shop's show window and reception area.

Again, luck was on Curata's side. Lourdes Livingstone, a journalist at the San Francisco Chronicle, was casually passing by his shop one day when a mannequin wearing a shift dress caught her attention. She left her business card with an employee and asked for a return call.

"I thought she was selling ad space," says an amused Curata. "I couldn't believe my ears when she told me that she wanted to write about me and my work."

Curata was swamped with orders soon after the article came out. From that moment on, he became a true believer in media's power to influence people. The exposure also resulted in invitations from fellow designers and events organizers for him to join them in their group shows.

Charmed by Stone

That's why when Curata met an agent from Miramax, he didn't let his proposal go unheeded. The agent wanted to hook him up with the then very hot Stone.

Tired of the usual names, the adventurous dresser wanted to give unknown designers a try. Curata promptly sent two gowns to the Los Angeles-based actress and heard nothing from her until a week later.

Stone, who was then busy doing "Last Dance" and promoting "Diabolique," personally called him in San Francisco one afternoon. She gushed over his designs, but regretted the fact that they were a tad too tight on her.

"I thought she was a size 6," says Curata, "but it turned out that she was a size 8. I had to drop everything and fly to LA the next day to personally attend to her."

It's not every day a star of Stone's stature calls you via long distance, but Curata managed to remain cool on the phone. The same composure, however, eluded him while waiting for the actress in her ballroom-like bedroom.

"I was so nervous before her arrival," he recalls. "I didn't know what to say."

To the designer's surprise, the supposed diva turned out to be totally different from her on-screen persona. Not only was she genuinely warm, she was totally unaffected as she emerged from the shower with wet hair and nothing but her undies and bathrobe on.

"I don't know where you learned how to cut, but you give me the ass of a 20-year-old," Curata recalls Stone saying. "She then went on to decry how overrated some famous designers were."

Although Stone never got to wear any of Curata's gowns to the Oscars, she ended up wearing one for a magazine cover. He also did a dozen or so dresses for her, which the actress wore during special appearances in Europe.

From LA, Stone eventually moved to San Francisco, where her then journalist-husband was based. It further allowed Curata to do a number of gowns for her.

Back home

Just when he was almost on the verge of making it big all over the US, Curata decided to scale down his work in 2001. After decades of living in a foreign land, he began to long for home. Despite the accolades, he says, nothing can be sweeter than being cited in your own country with friends and loved ones by your side.

During a vacation in the Philippines, he tested the waters by doing a high-profile wedding. He also bumped into Joanne Zapanta (GMA's personal stylist), who requested him to do a number of dresses for the President. The deal, however, didn't materialize until a year later.

By then, Curata had already made up his mind to close his shop in San Francisco and return to the Philippines for good. With his modest savings, he embarked on building a "retirement" home in 2003 (which now also doubles as his shop) in one of Metro Manila's exclusive villages.

He needs to design clothes, he says with a wink, not only to pay the bills, but to keep him sane. Even if he's no longer as driven as he was before, he can't see himself abandoning the business completely.

"To succeed in any field, you have to give it 110 percent," he says. "Obsessing about my designs has ceased to become my priority. There's more to life than being a slave to your success."

So what if his clothes don't land on the pages of Vogue or on the red carpet? Ito Curata is happy enough to be given the space to practice his craft and get noticed for it once in a while.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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International fashion show features German designs

IN CELEBRATION of the German Month this September, Escada will showcase German fashion at the Mercedes Benz Fashion Show at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel Bay View Tent on Sept. 15.

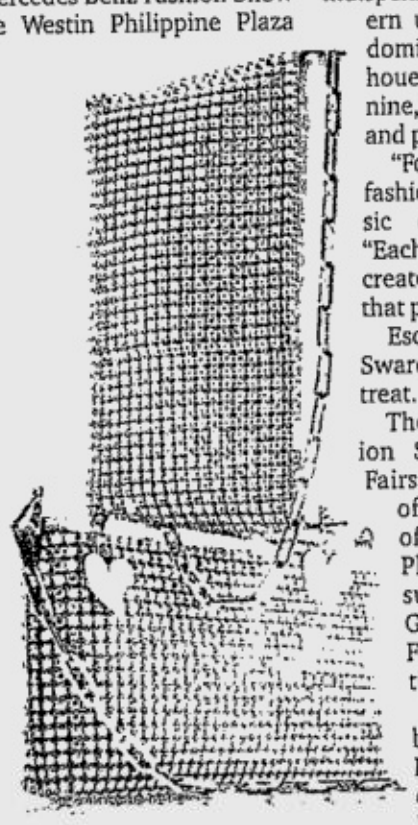
Escada designer Brian Rennie has come up with a collection of indispensable basics for the modern uptown girl, with black dominating the palette. Silhouettes are soft and feminine, fabrics are sensuous and pieces are smart.

"For the modern woman, fashion trends are just the basic chords," said Rennie. "Each day she uses them to create her own special melody that pleases her."

Escada will raffle off a Swarovski bag and a surprise treat.

The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Show is organized by Fairs and More, a subsidiary of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. Proceeds will support the Philippine General Hospital Medical Foundation's charity patient program.

For tickets, visit Escada boutiques at 3/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, and at G/L 6750 Building, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.



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DERMATICS, a world-renowned name in skin care product, is celebrating its 1st successful year in the Philippines.

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Originally based in Beverly Hills California, Dermatics has, thus far, established skin health centers in Los Angeles, Hongkong, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur.

The Dermatics FDA approved range of Skin Health products are manufactured under stringent controls and high standards in the Dermatics laboratories in California. The ability of Dermatics to treat, enhance and protect the skin effectively and lastingly has proven it popular with Medical Professionals.

The Dermatics Skin Health System works beyond the skin's surface by targeting at their source and fortifying skin from within. It has been clinically proven to treat freckles, age spots, hyperpigmentations, acne, rough skins, wrinkles and fine lines. With regular use, it does not only repair damaged skin but also helps maintain skin in an optimal condition. Well-hydrated, firmer, improved skin tone & clearly, is now possible regardless of age, gender and skin type.

Since its introduction a year ago, Dermatics Philippines was launched in the 28th Annual Convention of the Philippine Dermatological Society, sponsoring the topic "Rising to the Melasma Treatment Challenge (Treatment Techniques)". And since then, DERMATICS has been actively participating into several dermatological forum sponsorships in different training hospitals like AHMC, MMC, SLMC, CSMC, UST and accredited dermatological clinics in Metro Manila as well as key cities nationwide like Cebu, Davao, Baguio and Bacolod creating brand awareness for consumers, thus strengthening its base in the Philippines.

In the coming future, the company's goal is to continue its quest of new technology and excellence by bringing improved and effective solutions to the marketplace, in order to address consumer and physician needs.

DERMATICS is now available by prescription through your Dermatologists nationwide. To know more about our products and how Dermatics can help you, you may call or visit us at the Dermatics Philippines showroom located at the G/F 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City at telephone numbers 816-2594; 752-7828 and 0917-5143536 or e-mail us at info.ph@dermatics.com.

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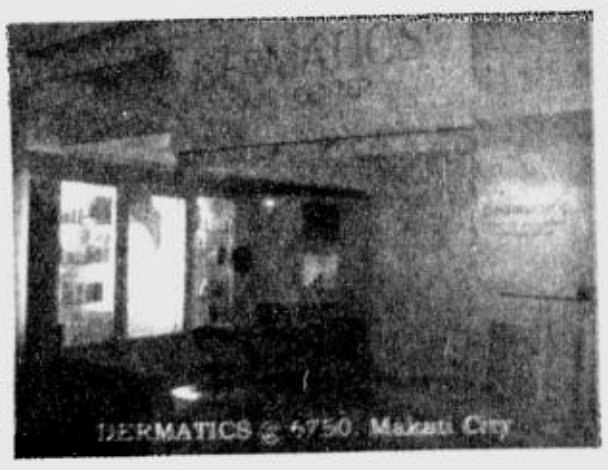

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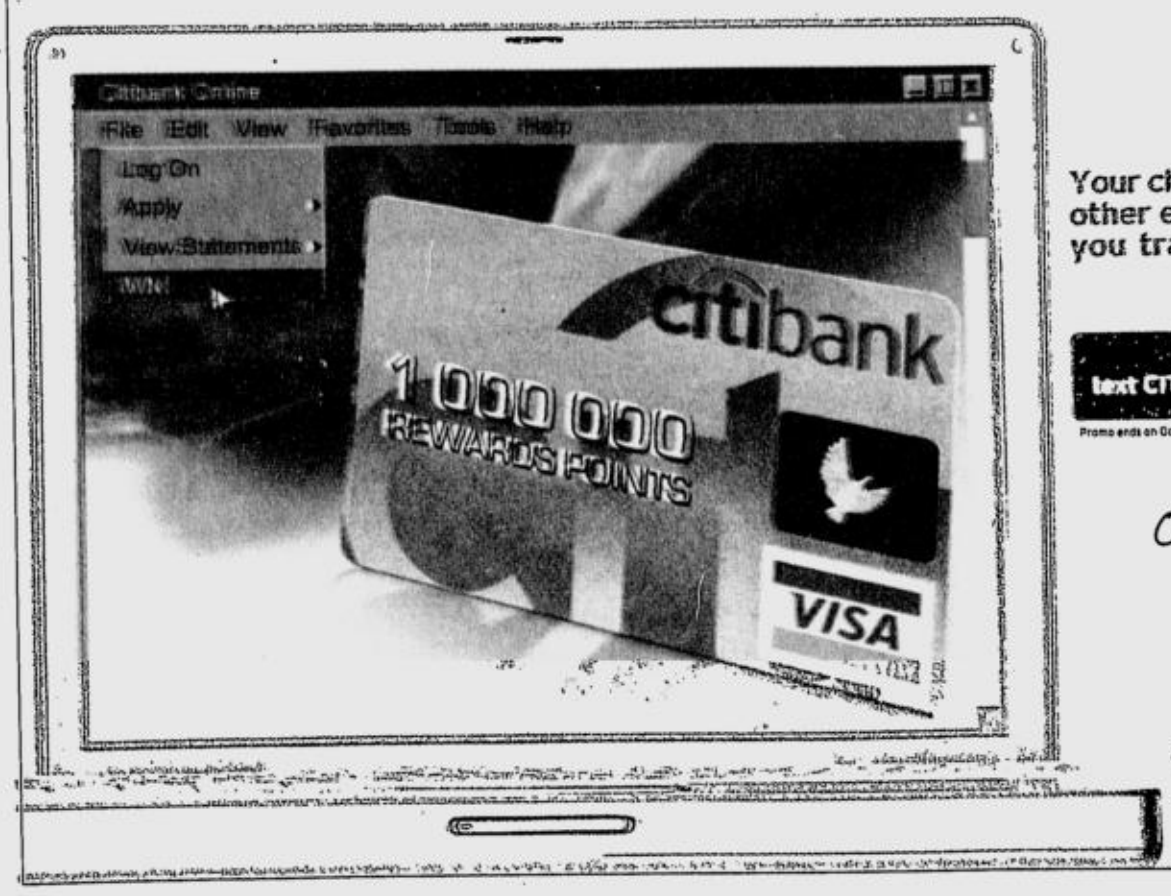

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CORBAN Learning Center will conduct a new series of Easy English seminars starting Sept. 3, 2-5 p.m., for students, housewives and professionals. The seminars will tackle conversation, grammar, pronunciation and writing. Call 8426665/ 8093050/ 0917-6297718.

GOINGS ON

TRADE FAIR. The Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc. is sponsoring a national livelihood trade fair, Kabuhayan 2005, starting today until Sept. 4 in Megatrade Hall II, Megamall B.

SALE. Maristella Fine Jewelry celebrates its anniversary with special discounts until Sept. 4. Maristella is located at 66 level B, Shoppesville, Greenhills, San Juan and 2/F Robinsons Place, Pioneer St. cor. Edsa, Mandaluyong.

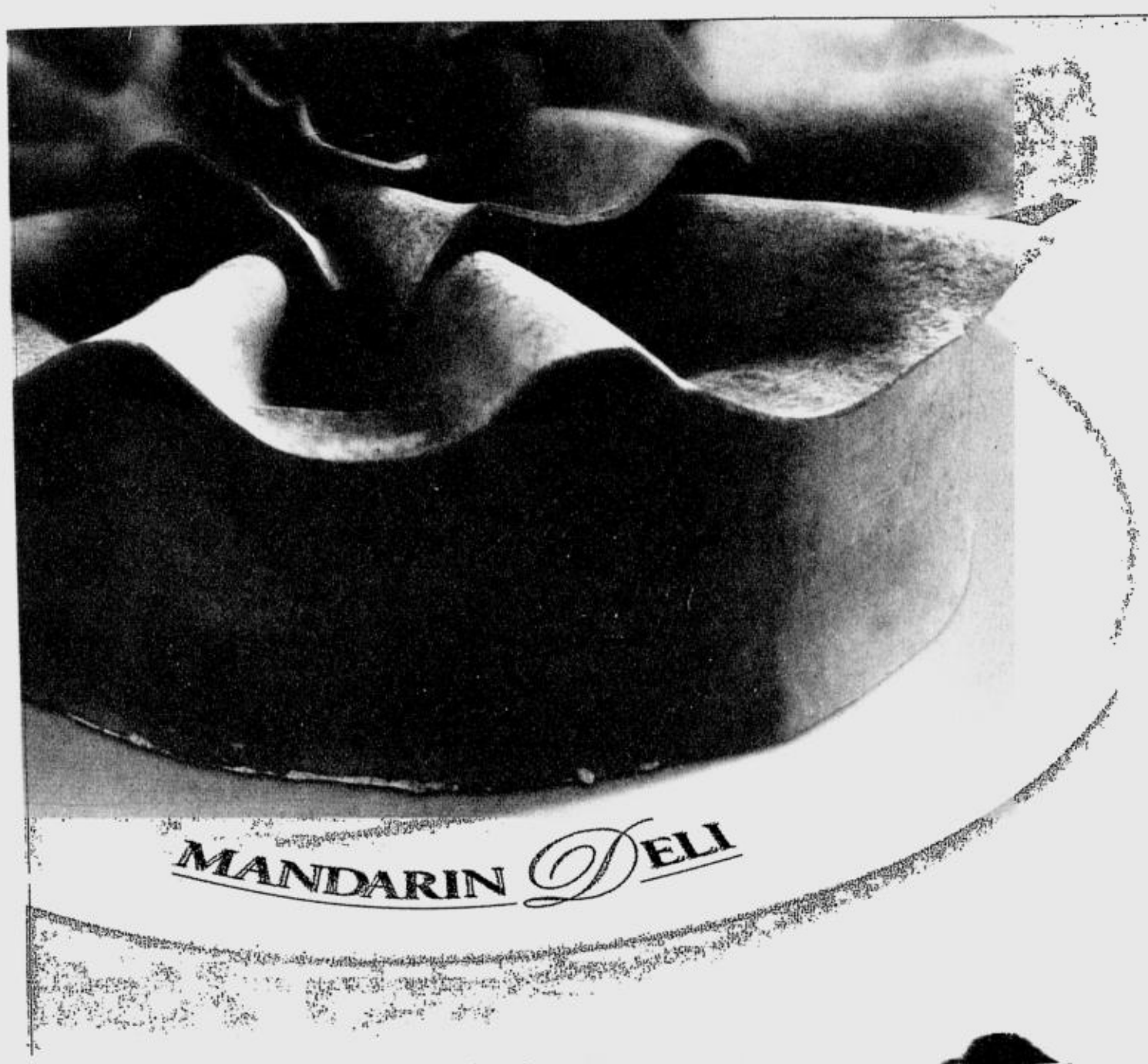
SHOW. Starland Themepark and Resort presents kid star BJ Forbes on Sept. 4 at the special guest for Starland's Spectacular Fire Eater show. Starland Themepark and Resort is located at 4/L of Metropolis Star. Call 8504283.

SEMINARS. CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: "Warehouse Management Seminar" (Sept. 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); "The Challenge of Creative Selling" (Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Time Management/Handling Pressure at Work" (9 a.m.-5 p.m.); "Conducting Successful Negotiation" (Sept. 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234258.

BEAUTY TILT. The 2005 Miss International Beauty Pageant will be held on Sept. 26 in Tokyo, Japan. The Philippines' candidate is Precious Lara Quigaman.

PHOTO CONGRESS. The Wedding and Portrait Photographers of the Philippines is inviting the country's wedding and portrait photographers to the WPPP Photo Congress 2005. The event will be held on Oct. 9-11, Megatrade Hall 3, 5/L, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. Call 4105561/ 0917-7438949/ 0921-2913120.

FENG SHUI FEST. Lillian Too, the world's best-selling author and authority on *feng shui*, is coming to the Philippines to conduct the first Feng Shui Extravaganza in the country. The event will be held on Jan. 15, 2006, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Westin Philippine Plaza, Harbor Garden Tent, Pasay City. Call 8899913 to 15.



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New jewelry collection

MICHELIS introduces a new collection of silver items, Feathers, which capture the dreamy lightness of feathers.

The collection is characterized by dangling elements, dainty chains and blue howlite, combined with glistening sterling silver, reminiscent of Native American designs.

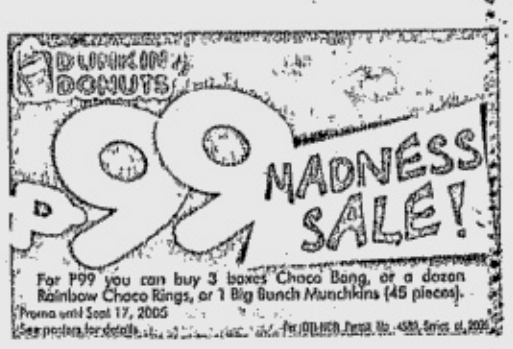
Silver feathers dangle from a graphic circular pattern or mix freely with dainty howlite beads in a unique take on the chandelier earring.

Finer silver feathers link up and form various lengths of bracelets and necklaces. They are combined either with howlite beads or feather charms. Bigger, bolder silver feathers make a statement as weighty pendants or ring centers.

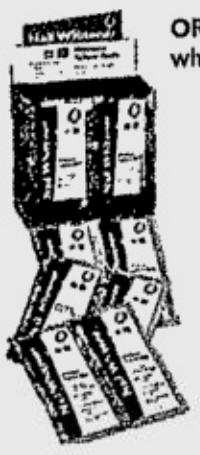
The Feathers collection is the latest offering from a well-known Filipino jewelry brand that showcases the possibilities of sterling silver and the creativity of local talent.

Michelis boutiques are at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center Makati; The Jewellery, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan; Shangri-La Hotel Makati; and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati.

Michelis is also available at Rustan's Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Harrison Plaza, Rustan's Robinsons Ermita and Rustan's Tower, Shangri-La Plaza Mall.



Best foot forward



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CRABTREE & Evelyn foot smoother, foot and leg therapy cream, and Apivita pedicare cream

GODIVA whitening set

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SEVERAL male friends of mine who beg to remain nameless for fear of being slaughtered by girlfriends, sisters and spouses have been pressuring me to write this article.

Apparently, it isn't an urban myth—men really stare at women's feet and consider them a determining factor in the further pursuit of a relationship. They say they just can't help it seeing how women keep flaunting their feet in sexy strappy shoes whether they have a right to or not.

Well, ladies, this article will help your feet look their best outside the regular pedicure, which is a given. My suggestions are so pleasurable and yield such results you are in danger of getting addicted to them!

One cannot change the width and shape of one's feet as well as the size of one's toes, but it is possible to make the skin there softer, smoother, even-toned and free of calluses. Pamper them before anything else.

I dropped by the Footloose branch at The Fort for a two-hour Thai foot spa and massage, which cost P880; there was a complimentary back massage at the end. I chose this because the foot spa uses sea salts to exfoliate the foot up to the knees, and I noticed my legs became not only smoother but lighter in color. I would recommend this for those who have darker and coarser skin on the toes than the rest of the feet.

The Thai foot massage is not the same as foot reflexology, which for beginners tend to hurt a lot. TFM is more tolerable but yield the same results.

One thing a foot massage also has in common with foot reflexology is the instant improvement in circulation. My bathroom habits were more regular for a couple of days afterward and I slept more soundly in the evenings as well.

The Footloose branches (except for the one in Pasay Road) do not offer manicures or pedicures as it is strictly for de-stressing the feet and certain areas of the body such as the back and scalp. This explains why their clientele are most often men who just want to go in and out for treatment without the hassle of dressing up and having to shower. No frills. For inquiries, text/call: 8130655, 0917-8900552 or 0917-8132106, or e-mail footloosesalon@yahoo.com

Do-it-yourself treats

Godiva has been sending me a big bunch of its skin-whitening line for years. This consists of the whitening bars for the face (white) and body (amber), whitening toner, AHA cream, Licorice whitening cream and green tea sunblock SPF25++.

I have been trying so many brands for the face that I thought of using the reasonably priced Godiva line for the feet, hands, knees and elbows. My feet and hands are now very fair and even-toned, they're almost the same shade as my face. My knees and elbows have become lighter.

I even replaced my bath soap and hand soap by the sink with Godiva and massage the lather on for 20 seconds, then followed with the AHA cream to exfoliate the dead skin on the dark and rough areas, then top it with the lightening cream.

I only use the toner on my elbows and knees after washing and the green tea sunblock on top of everything else every morning to prevent the sun from darkening the areas.

For hardcore rough skin and calluses, the best foot scrub I have discovered is that of Crabtree & Evelyn's, which instantly hydrates while effectively lifting off rough skin with its fine sandy texture. It is pricey but I have yet to find a more reasonable brand which does the job as efficiently.

I follow that up with Crabtree & Evelyn's minty and hydrating Foot and Leg therapy cream that relaxes tired legs and feet.

For more exfoliation and skin softening, I apply Apivita Propoline Pedi Care cream which exfoliates heels, knees and elbows with AHA and treats, heals and hydrates with olive oil. If this does not give you feet fit for a queen I don't know what will.

The Orly brand of nail products are now available at Rustan's Essenses. Aside from the fantastic colors, the best buys are the Ridge filler treatment for those of us who have all these waves on our nails to fill them in, so the polish becomes smoother; and Bonder that smoothens the nail color and makes it last longer, like a good two weeks for the fingernails and up to a month on the toes.

The Nail whitener (P395) instantly lightened my nails that previously had turned yellow due to polish overload.

Apivita is exclusively available at Rustan's Essenses. Godiva is available at leading grocery and drug stores.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

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BOB ZOZOBRADO, Cesar Montano, Norma Japitana

ALEX and Sallie Lopez, Lyceum alumni association president Vic Endriga, Cocoy Laurel, Chinggoy Alonso, Lyceum VPAA Kate Botengan and Bobby Laurel

Party toasts Cesar Montano's smash success

MALU Francisco and Jose Miguel Cortez

GMA 7 EVP Jimmy Duavit and Jo Laurel

MULTI-AWARDED actor **Cesar Montano** was Lyceum of the Philippines' Outstanding Alumnus of 1999. Well, *palanggas*, the school conferred on him this prestigious award "in recognition of his critically acclaimed performance in the cinematic magnum opus, "Rizal," the milestone movie of the Philippine Independence Centennial year."

Recently Cesar reaped the best actor, best director and best picture awards in the recent Urian Awards for his trend-setting Cebuano epic, "Panaghoy Sa Suba," *natch*, so it was another cause to celebrate for the school that is proud of having him in the roster of illustrious alumni it continues to produce through the years, *palanggas*.

Lyceum's young president, the intelligent and good-looking **Roberto P. Laurel**, brought together some pals in the academe, business and society, for a cool, relaxing dinner at his tastefully decorated Corinthian Gardens home to celebrate Cesar's string of victories.

The honoree came to the dinner with pals from the movie industry. His gorgeous wife, **Sunshine**, was not with him since she's again pregnant and decided to chill it at home.

The menu was excellently prepared by culinary doyen **Glenda Barretto** and her superb Via Mare staff.

The many guests were all ears as Cesar talked about behind-the-scene happenings in his movies.

Wine glasses were raised at the end for the internationally acclaimed actor, as well as for **Bobby Laurel**, and my alma mater, Lyceum of the Philippines, which continues to produce men and women of distinction.

We wish Cesar and Lyceum more "laurels," indeed, *palanggas*.

MEGA interior designer and landscaper Cocoy Cordoba, adorable Maribel Villavicencio, Tammy Cordoba and architect Bobby Formoso; (seated) Chit Salud, our host Nene Leonor and Baby de Jesus

EYE-CATCHING Aida Posadas, Carne Garcia, bubbly Nini Layug, Bobby Rodrigo, and Ben and Linda Pastoral

FREDERICK Peralta

ELIZABETH Alonso

BONG Paderna

TOASTING Canada and Philippine relations are Sgt. Warren Tomalty of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, DFA Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin and Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky

WHAT'S On and Expat's Butch Bonsol, consul of Monaco Fortune Ledesma and newly appointed consul of Gambia Agnes Huibonhua

TIME Magazine executive editor Anthony Spaeth, New Indian Express' Viswa Nathan, Time correspondent Nelly Sindayen, Guatemala consul and top socialite Mellie Romero Ablaza and husband, business magnate Louie Ablaza

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Birthday with a bang

For society writer **Resty Vergara**, a birthday is a perfect excuse to really celebrate, with a bang!

And so it was no surprise at all that several high-profile personalities of Manille society toasted his birthday, *palanggas*.

The fun happening was superbly organized and hosted by popular civic-oriented lady **Nene Leonor**, with her sister, fashionable **Fe Rodriguez**; as well as by **Letty Bonoan, Karen Macasaet, Nini Layug**, vivacious **Tereret Liboro, Vicky Cadungog, Mabel Abano**, adorable **Chit Salud, Baby de Jesus, Maribel Villavicencio, Tessie Amparo, Lydia Reyes, Fe Ng, Linda Pastoral, Carrie Bautista**, and consuls **Mellie Ablaza, Evie Costa** and **Fortune Ledesma**.

Nene's well-manicured garden was gorgeously decorated by the talented Cocoy Cordoba to provide the '60s retro look in keeping with the party's theme.

Leading the guests were Asia's fashion czar **Pitoy Moreno**, who was with tall and regal beauty queen **Aurora Pijuan**; former Sen. **Loren Legarda**; **Mark Villar**; popular Pandi, Bulacan Mayor **Oliver Andres**; international businessman **Gunther Matschuck**; **Nini Valdez**; **Viring Ongkiko**; and **Celine Bautista**; Resty's pals from the fashion world—designers **Larrie Silva, Danny de la Cuesta, Donnie Delima** and **Dobie Aranda**—were there. **Aida Posadas** was in an eye-catching full balloon pink bustier.

On a rare nightout were super nice **Danny Uy** of the Caloocan City Chamber of Commerce and civic leader **Joy Fong**; Hyatt Hotel's executive chef **Hubertus Cramer**; top PR honcho **Edd Fuentes**; former club manager **Ernest Gonzaga**; University of Santo Tomas professor **Nicky Salandanan**; **Aaron Palileo**, the ADP Industry Corp's marketing manager; hardworking **Francis Oliva**; and PR and events manager **Ogie Rodriguez**. The latter made sure that Rene Barbier wine flowed like forever during the entire night till past 2 a.m., dahlings.

STYLISH Jo-Lynne Sutherland cuts the Canadian cake, assisted by Daphne Oseña

BIRTHDAY boy Resty Vergara; invitees Che Singson, Aurora Pijuan, Roi Philips and hostess with the mostest Nene Leonor

The dinner guests were then treated to a dance exhibition by the junior Dancesport champion, keenly watched by the empress of ballroom dancing herself, **Becky Garcia**, and *naturellement*, international award-winning professor **Nelia Cruz Sarcol**.

Arthur Manuntag got the whole thing on a roll with his inimitable style. Even businessman **Jun Leonor** gamely obliged to render a few Sinatra numbers, dedicated to his Nene, of course, and fast-rising singing sensation, **Faith Cuneta**, belted out songs with her powerful voice.

Resty's birthday was certainly memorable.

Canadian celebration

Some 500 guests caught a glimpse of Canada during the national day celebration of the Canadian Embassy at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La.

Stage lights duplicated the image of the Northern Lights. There was a five-foot tall ice sculpture of the Inukshuk, an aboriginal Canadian tool providing directions for hunting and other indigenous Canadian community activities.

Moi had a flashback of the great time when I was in Canada with a Mountie—a real member of the cool Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who jetted in from Vancouver.

Naturellement, there had to be the awesome yummy Canadian-theme menu: salmon, oysters, Canadian beef and bottles of wine, plus those typical Canadian desserts made from maple syrup.

GEENA Zablan and PAL stewardess Fe Dixon

For extras, there was Fil-Canadian beauty, TV's **Daphne Oseña**, who did an excellent job hosting the show and introducing the Filipino-Canadian performers who provided live entertainment, such as the a capella group 604 and "Star in a Million" finalist **Nyko Maca**. Soprano **Joanna Go** belted out both national anthems of the Philippines and Canada, which received tremendous applause from the chi-chi guests, *palanggas*.

In his speech, Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland** mentioned the highlights of Canadian-Philippines relations last year, particularly the successful partnerships in trade and development.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary **Franklin Ebdalin** noted Canada's 400,000 citizens and residents of Philippine origin, whom he commended for giving tribute to both their country of birth and their host country.

WOMEN of substance: Lydia Reyes, Marilou Prieto Lovina and Letty Bonoan; (seated) Baby de Jesus, Justa Tantoco, Consul Mellie Ablaza, Lulu Castañeda and hostess with the mostest Nene Leonor

FORMER Sen. Loren Legarda

ATTRACTIVE Charmaine Cruz

THE FUN PACK. Lulu Bonoan, Kathy Park, Hyatt Hotel's executive chef Hubertus Cramer and soon-to-wed Becky Garcia

INQUIRER Lifestyle columnist Cory Quirino

CARRIE Bautista, vivacious Tereret Liboro, fashion czar Pitoy Moreno and fashion plate Fe Rodriguez

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Calamansi P15.75/kg • Baguio Cucumber P52.50/kg • Baguio Cabbage P21.00/kg • Squash P7.40/kg • Spring Onion P89.25/kg • Ginger P18.90/kg
Sili Labuyo P63.00/kg • Sitao P39.90/kg • Okra P23.10/kg

Nestle Coffeemate
89g P87.10 • 450g P67.90 • 200g P34.50

Purefoods
Corned Beef 210g P43.25
Tender Juicy Hotdog Cocktail kg P154.80

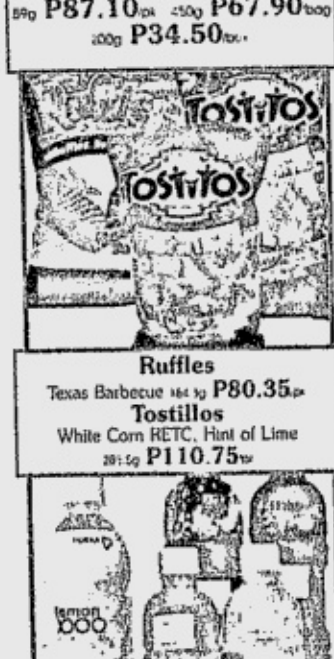
CDO
Liver Spread 85g P11.60
Meat Loaf 100g P12.15
Premium Hotdog Regular kg P95.10
Bibbo Cheesedog kg P144.60

Nestle Ice Cream
Back-to-Back
Dulce de Leche, Vanilla Caramel
1 qt P206.60 • 750ml P90.90

Blue Bay
Flakes in Vegetable Oil, Hot & Spicy
100g P22.60
Argentina
Corned Beef Chunky 150g P19.70
190g P24.50

Mama Sita's
Liquid Seasoning 150ml P20.90
Kare-Kare Mix
57g P17.20 • 100g P22.50

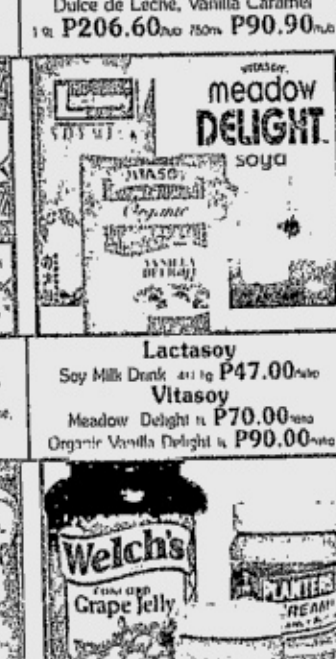
Zesto
Juice Drink Orange, Lemon, Strawberry Pineapple, Lugaw, Calamansi, Apple, Iced Tea Regular, Green Lemon, Strawberry, Calamansi, Green Tea Lemon, Tinum Tea Peach
1L P42.50
Mango Dalandan 1L P48.50
Quick Chow
Instant Mami and Pancit P4.25



Ruffles
Texas Barbecue 184.5g P80.35
Tostillos
White Corn RETC, Hint of Lime
281.5g P110.75

Jolly
Fresh Grape Fruit 2L P122.00
Happy Day
Apple, Orange Juice 1L P60.00

Campbell's Australia
Vegetable Beef Consomme, Chicken Noodle, Cream of Chicken & Corn, Cream of Asparagus, Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Chicken, Cream of Chicken & Mushroom, Beef Consomme, Chicken Noodle, Cream of Celery
P85.00

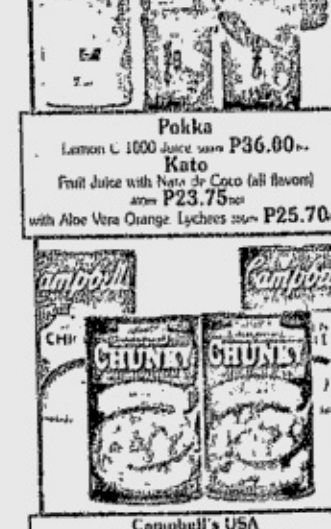


Lactasoy
Soy Milk Drink 411.1g P47.00
Vitasoy
Meadow Delight 1L P70.00
Organic Vanilla Delight 1L P90.00

Golden Dragon
Premium Fish Sauce 750ml P80.50
Mermaid
Oyster Sauce 2.4L P81.00

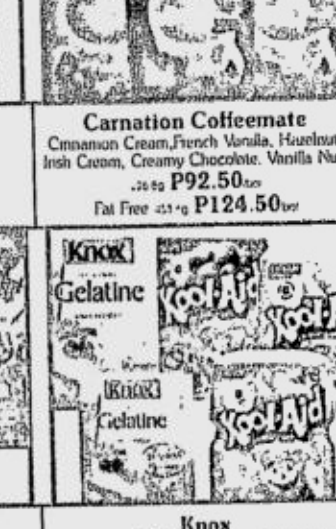
Rich Taste
Tomato Paste 140g P11.25
Wei-Chuan
Water Chestnut Whole, Sliced
227g P23.00

Carbonell
Green Olives Plain 113g P67.20
Pitted 113g P69.25
Stuffed w/ Pimento 198g P73.40
French's
Yellow Classic Mustard 9.5g P29.00 • 20.5g P59.00
Yellow Mustard Squeeze 20.5g P76.00



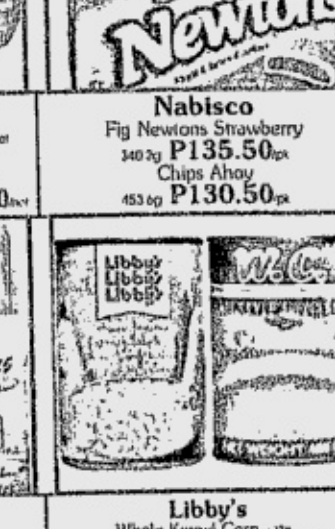
Pokka
Lemon C 1000 Juice 500ml P36.00
Kato
Fruit Juice with Nata de Coco (all flavors)
400ml P23.75
with Aloe Vera Orange, Lychees 250ml P25.70

Mistral
Rouge Dessert Wine Red, Blanc Wine White
750ml P127.00

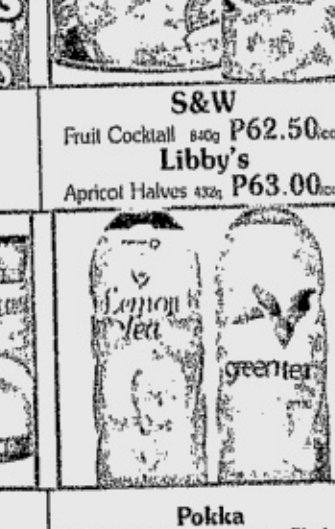


Carnation Coffeemate
Cinnamon Cream, French Vanilla, Hazelnut, Irish Cream, Creamy Chocolate, Vanilla Nuts
.26kg P92.50
Fat Free 453.6g P124.50

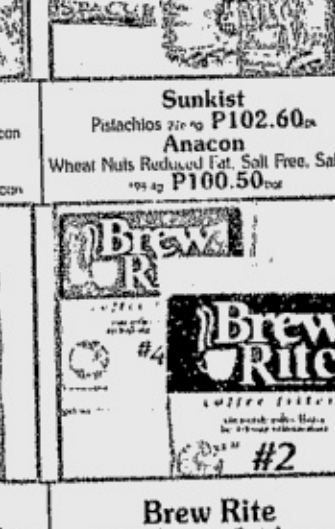
Welch's
Grape Jam, Jelly 907.2g P93.50
Planters
Peanut Butter Creamy, Crunchy
340.2g P74.50 • 510.3g P100.50



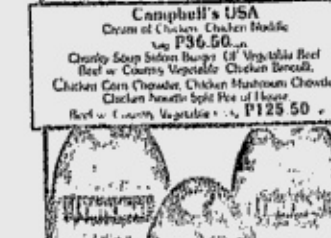
Nabisco
Fig Newtons Strawberry
340.2g P135.50
Chips Ahoy
453.6g P130.50



S&W
Fruit Cocktail 840g P62.50
Libby's
Apricot Halves 432g P63.00

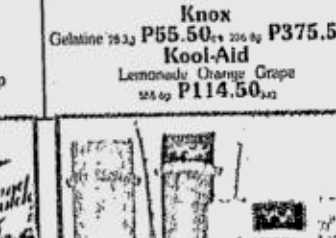


Sunkist
Pistachios 227g P102.60
Anacon
Wheat Nuts Reduced Fat, Salt Free, Salted
199.5g P100.50

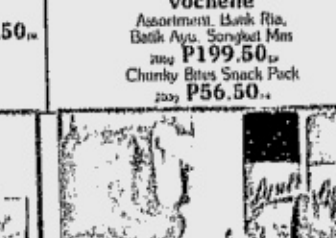


Campbell's USA
Cream of Chicken, Chicken Noodle
305g P36.50
Chunky Soup Sirloin Burger, Gl' Vegetable Beef, Beef w/ Country Vegetable, Chicken Broccoli, Chicken Corn Chowder, Chicken Mushroom Chowder, Chicken Noodle Split Pea w/ Honey
Beef w/ Country Vegetable 510g P125.50

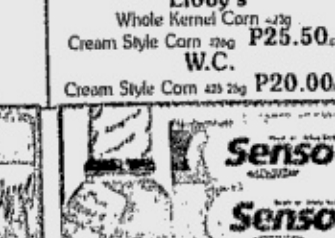
Nicoli
Corn Flakes 375g P76.00
Simply
Cereal Balance, Strawberry Crisp
300g P126.00



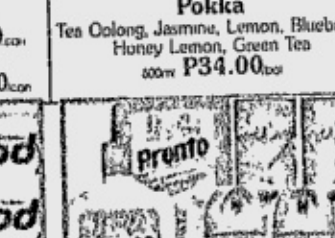
Knox
Gelatine 28.3g P55.50 • 226.8g P375.50
Kool-Aid
Lemonade, Orange, Grape
566g P114.50



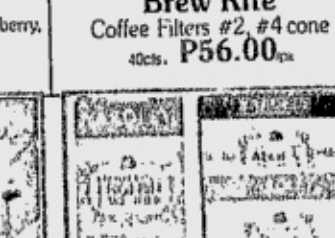
Vochelle
Assortment, Batik Ria, Batik Ayu, Sonjiwal Mini
200g P199.50
Chunky Bites Snack Pack
200g P56.50



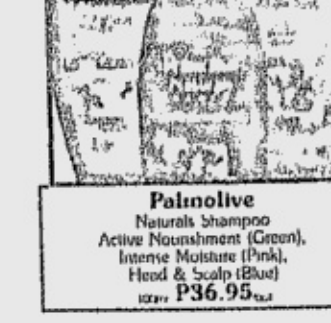
Libby's
Whole Kernel Corn 425g
Cream Style Corn 425g P25.50
W.C.
Cream Style Corn 425.2g P20.00



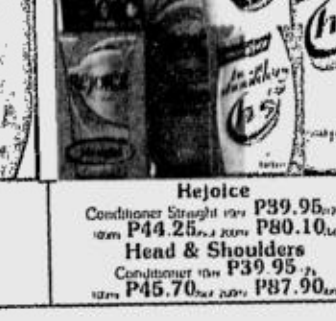
Pokka
Tea Oolong, Jasmine, Lemon, Blueberry, Honey Lemon, Green Tea
600ml P34.00



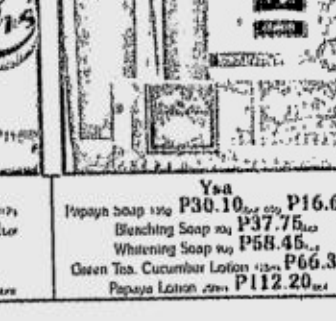
Brew Rite
Coffee Filters #2, #4 cone
40cts. P56.00



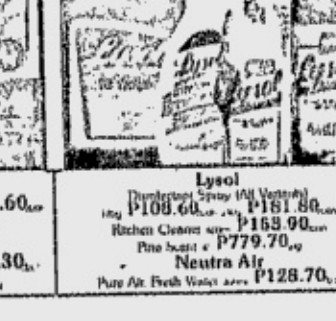
Palmolive
Naturals Shampoo
Active Nourishment (Green), Intense Moisture (Pink), Head & Scalp (Blue)
100ml P36.95



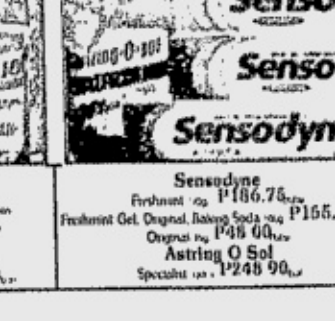
Hejoice
Conditioner Straight 180ml P39.95
180ml P44.25 • 200ml P80.10
Head & Shoulders
Conditioner 180ml P39.95
180ml P45.70 • 200ml P87.90



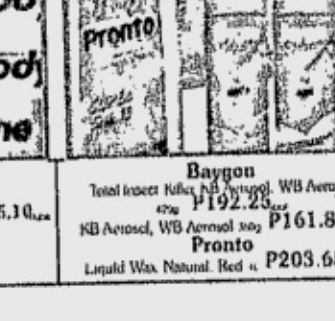
Ysa
Papaya Soap 135g P30.10 • 65g P16.60
Bleaching Soap 90g P37.75
Whitening Soap 90g P58.45
Green Tea, Cucumber Lotion 125ml P66.30
Papaya Lotion 200ml P112.20



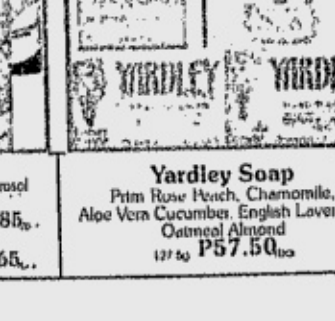
Lysol
Disinfectant Spray (All Variants)
180g P108.60 • 340g P181.80
Kitchen Cleaner 500ml P153.90
Pine Scent 4L P779.70
Neutra Air
Pure Air, Fresh Wedge 300ml P128.70



Sensodyne
Freshmint 100g P186.75
Freshmint Gel, Original, Baking Soda 100g P155.10
Original 100g P48.00
Astring O Sol
Specialist 100L P248.90



Baygon
Total Insect Killer, KB Aerosol, WB Aerosol
420g P192.25
KB Aerosol, WB Aerosol 300g P161.85
Pronto
Liquid Wax, Natural, Red 1L P203.65



Yardley Soap
Prim Rose Peach, Chamomile, Aloe Vera Cucumber, English Lavender, Oatmeal Almond
127.5g P57.50

Scent your way to true love

AVON, the No. 1 fragrance house in the country, "tells" each woman's love story with three captivating scents—Sparks, Chase and Gotcha.

The first chapter is when a woman meets a man and they exchange shy smiles, a brief touch and discreet glances that speak volumes. Sparks is the fragrance that evokes the memories of beginnings and the ecstasy of initial attraction. It has a fresh, floral citrus scent that captures love's delicious, tingly moments—from the fireworks of the first encounter, the giddiness of the first kiss, to the magic of first realizing that one is in love.

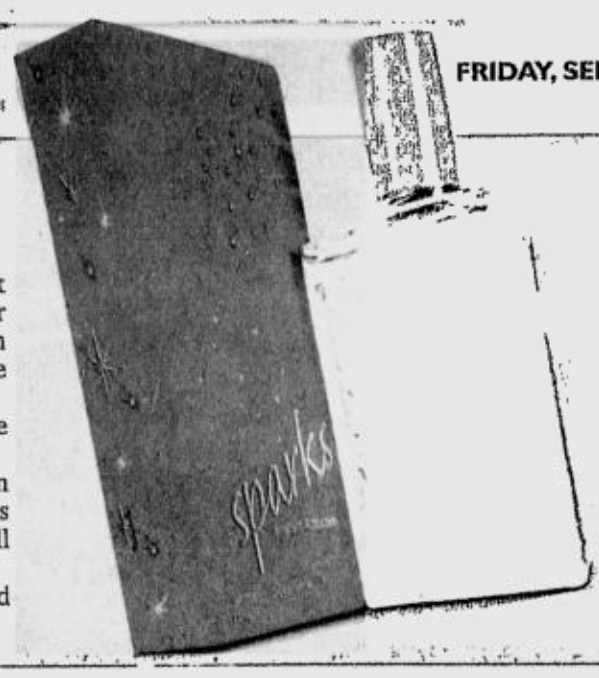
For the blossoming romance consisting of dinner dates, walks by the moonlit bay, nighttime conversations that last till dawn, Chase is the scent. Bask in the thrill of pursuit and the transformation of a fledgling bond into a deeper connection with the delicate scent of lavender layered with fresh citrus and herbal notes.

Finally, Gotcha is the fragrance that speaks of sweet surrender and happily ever after. Its soft, musky scent combined with floral and fruity notes, will enhance the bliss of finding true love at last.

Sparks, Chase and Gotcha are available only from Avon.

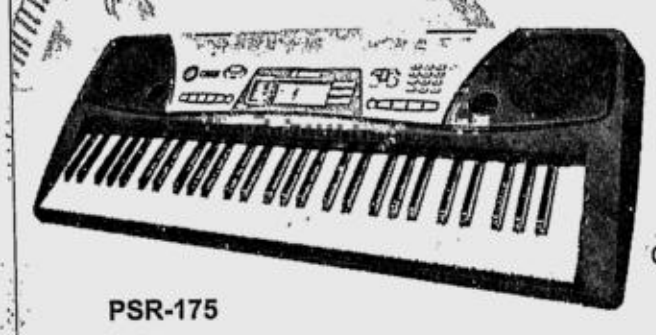
Get Sparks this October from Avon Ladies nationwide and at Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Fairview.

Watch out for Chase in November and Gotcha in December.


sparks

SPARKS from Avon is a fresh, floral citrus scent that captures love's delicious, tingly moments.

Bring home the fun of music to your family



PSR-175

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AVON
shine supreme

LONG-WEARING, self-renewing with intense color and shine. Your lips will never know a dull moment with Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color.

Lips that know no dull moment

WANT lip color with shine that won't quit for up to five hours and color that lasts up to six hours?

Avon, the global beauty company, introduces the latest breakthrough, the Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color. It gives you juicy color and high shine that smartly renews and reintensifies every time you pucker or pout, staying fresh for hours.

This new gloss, which can give you full, sexy lips, boasts of a patent-pending Blooming Shine Technology, a unique system that adheres color to your lips while allowing the high gloss layers to rise through the color and right to the surface for a high shine effect. Each time you press your lips together, the shine renews and reintensifies! You get rich, full color and lasting shine that stays fresh from just one fabulous lip color.

It only takes one minute for the product to renew itself and for the shine to fully "re-bloom" onto the surface of your lips. Simply start with clean lips and sweep on a layer of Avon Color Shine Supreme Lip Color, spreading the first coat evenly. Dip the applicator into the vial and put on a second layer for optimal, high-impact shine. Then watch how it just keeps on shining.

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AVON, the global beauty company, presents women with a breakthrough product for firmer abs and lifted buttocks without surgery and the huge expense that goes with it.

Anew Clinical Lift and Tuck Professional Body Shaper is your at-home and in a tube alternative to liposuction.

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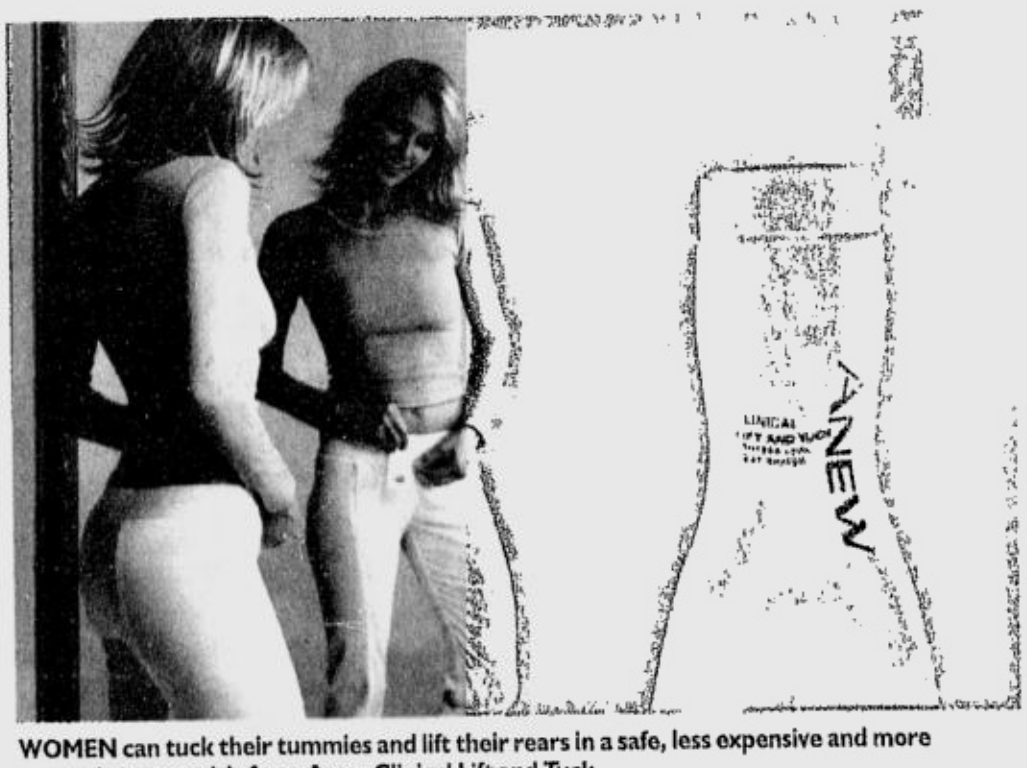
Initial tests showed that, after four weeks of use, 79 percent of women who tried the product had firmer abdominals, while 82 percent showed a more lifted derriere. With continued use, 93 percent of women showed firmer abs, while 100 percent of users showed more lifted buttocks.

With the Avon Anew Clinical Lift and Tuck Professional Body Shaper, women can tuck their tummies and lift their rears in a safe, less expensive and more convenient way.

The Avon breakthrough product, at only P800 for every 100 ml tube, will be available this November from Avon ladies nationwide and at Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Fairview.


ANEW

WOMEN can tuck their tummies and lift their rears in a safe, less expensive and more convenient way with Avon Anew Clinical Lift and Tuck.

CRYSTALS at your feet /E2

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Real women vs fashion

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WE dropped in on some friends at the L'Oreal office last week and went away with images of the coolest office wear.

Leica Carpo was in her trademark micro mini, this time in white, a snug-fit rose-pink blouse and a white lace cardigan. Her white Hogan shoes and three-strand faux (I presume) pink pearls clinched the look.

Angelique Villaraza was in cropped-sleeved tank and cropped pants, both in neutral color, with patches of pastels on her pants, a long strand of pearls, her tiny tattoo barely peeking—just barely—out of her hip-slung pants.

Celine Gabriel was in a wide-necked tank and loose pants, a rope of pearls her only accent.

Pearls and all—pearls are the scene these days, if you haven't noticed—they cut the trendiest, fashion-forward figures in the workplace. They wear the trends with such nonchalance that they come out chic. But then you have to be a Leica, Angelique or Celine to get away with work wear that's more hip than corporate.

Mostly everyone else in Makati or Ortigas has a corporate setting to blend in—or disappear into. A 31-year-old woman banker who's stylish in her own way told me how she wished fashion rags would come down to earth and realize that real women like her can't come to work in clothes frayed and slashed all over or deconstructed to the bone.

"We're not even expected to wear blouse in screaming color. Our pants must not be overaccented," she said, "and it has to be pumps. If we wear mules, our ankles must not show so the pants must be long enough."

She works in a bank where, of course, the dress code is pretty established. But given the severity of her corporate wear standards, she airs sartorial concerns shared by many women in their 20s, 30s, even 40s.

Editing some fashion shots, I singled out a photo of a woman in a double-breasted vest, pleated micro mini that barely covered her bottom, and knee-high boots. This was supposed to

REAL/ E3

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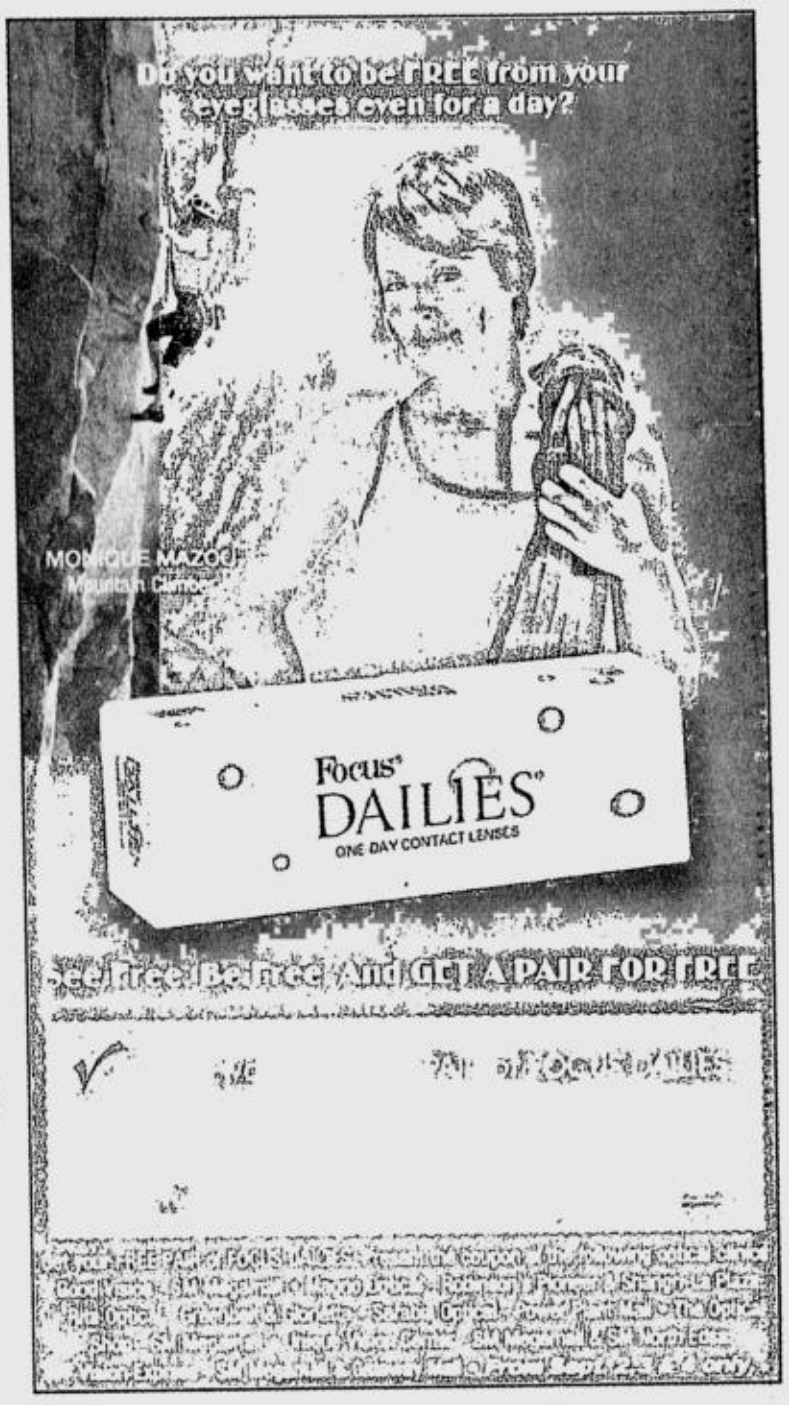

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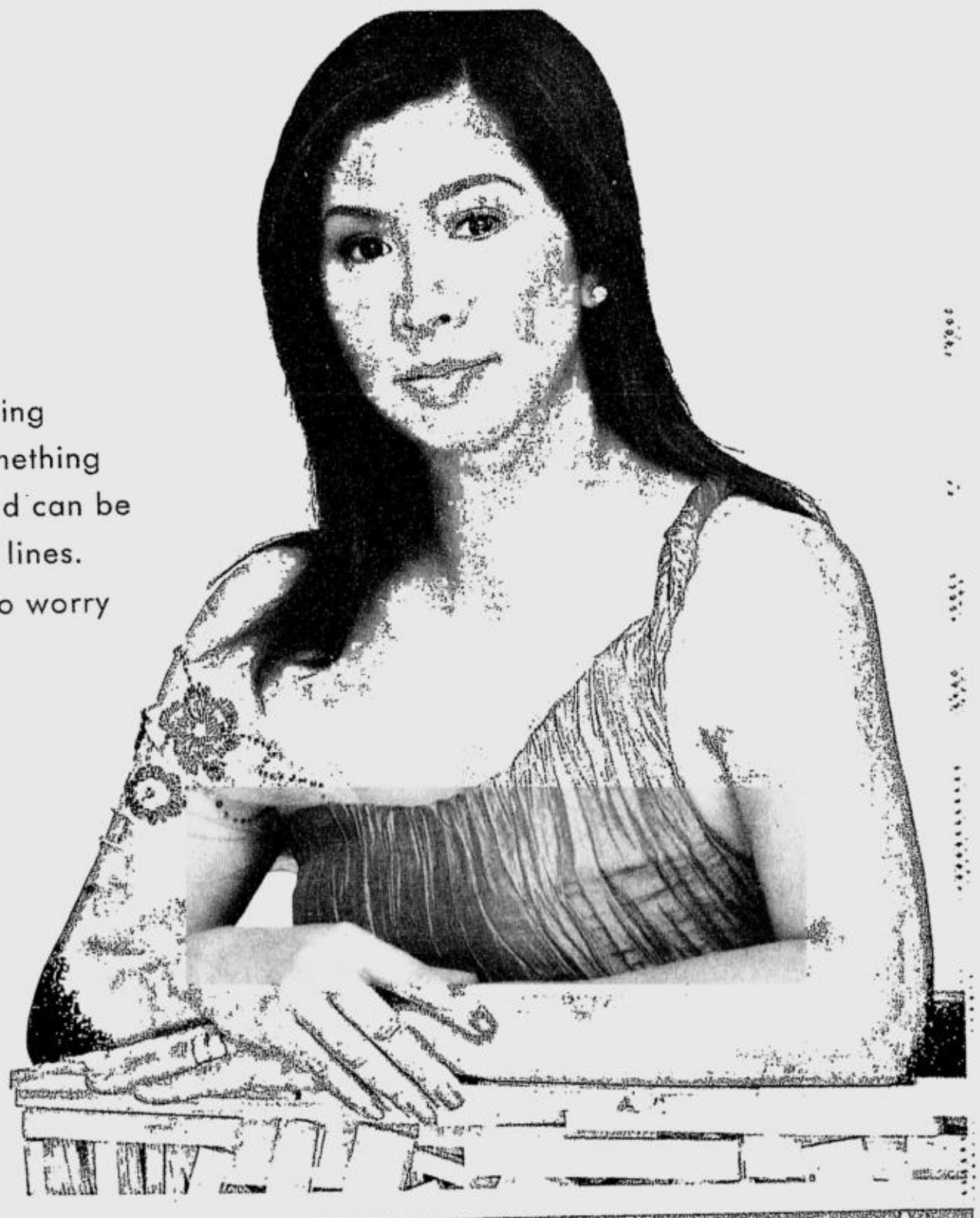

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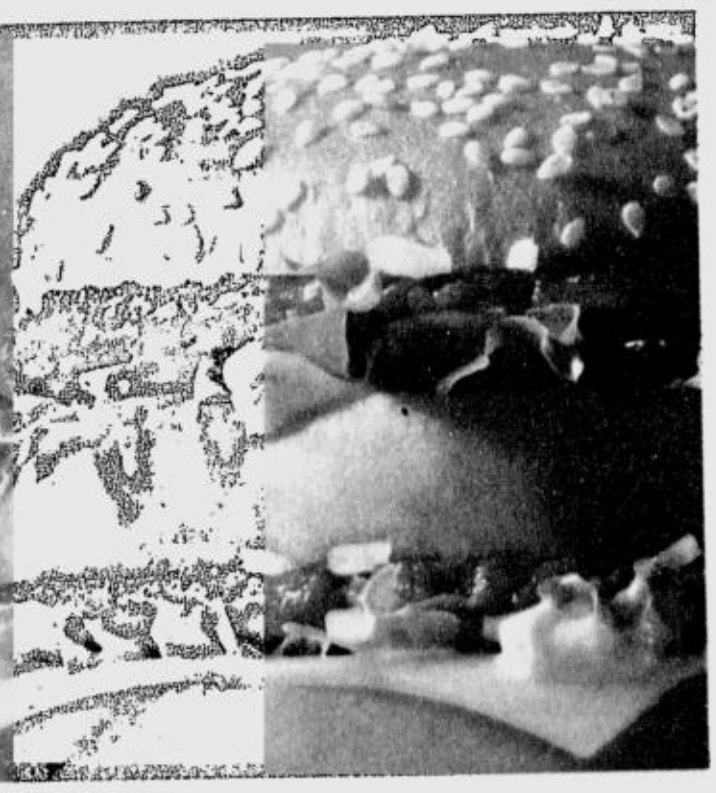
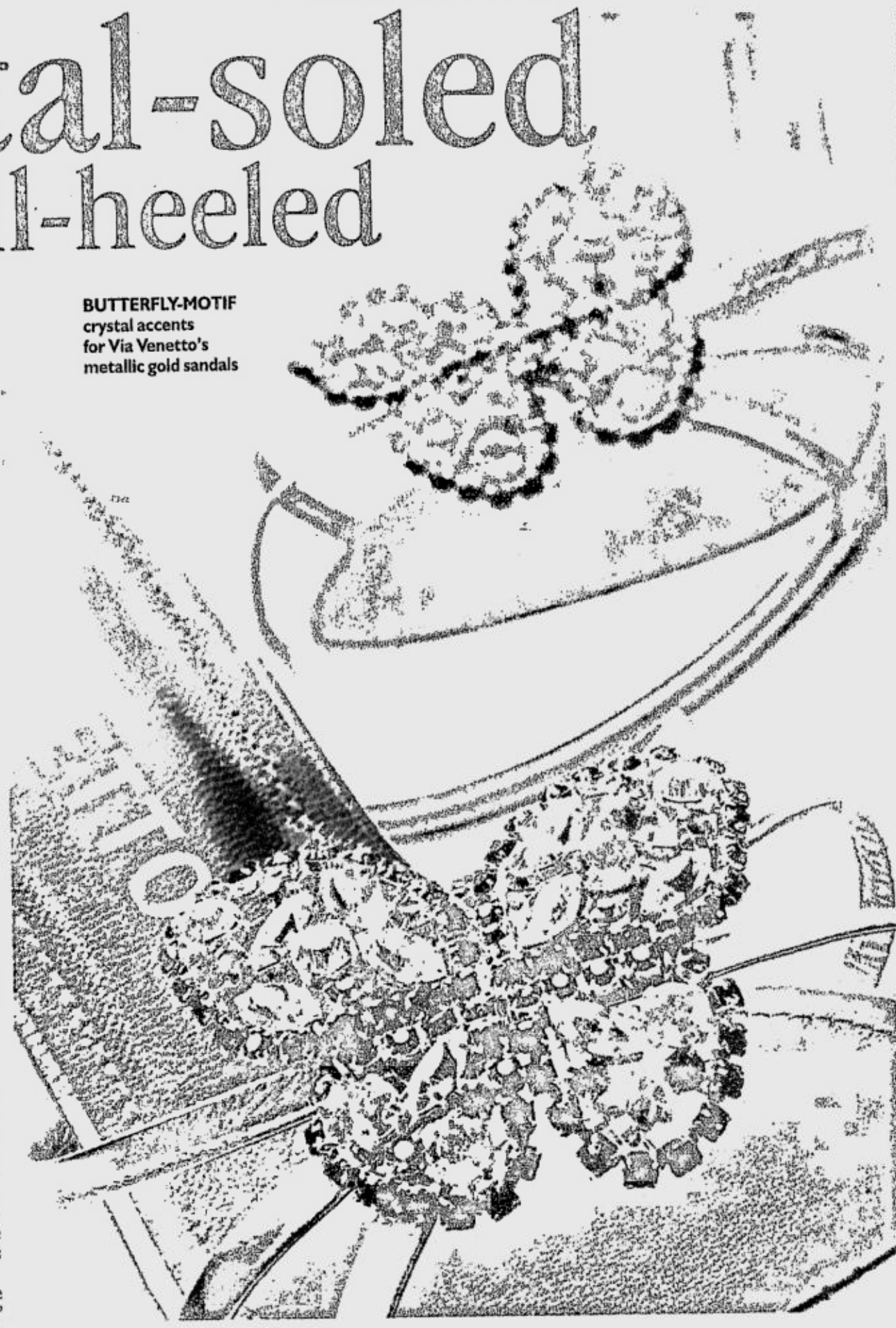


Crystal-soled and well-heeled

By Cheche V. Moral



BUTTERFLY-MOTIF crystal accents for Via Venetto's metallic gold sandals

HEELED loafers, pilgrim shoes, jeweled wedges and ballerina flats, ubiquitous glam stilettos, boots of all lengths and height—these are the shoe trends for fall. That much we already know. It's only September, of course, but for true-blue shoe hounds, it's never too soon to find out what looks to watch out for next spring.

Materials like raffia and straw, both staples in summer footwear, will meld with crystals for a fresh treatment. Wedge heels will come in cork, wood, rope, some with cutout details.

Orientalia will be hot, with materials like brocade and shapes that take references from Chinese slippers and gravity-defying soles of Japanese footwear. Insect and fairy motifs; large, removable brooches and personalized charms; dramatic jewels and crystals will be the centerpieces of sexy haute-couture heels.

Apparel's influence will be evident in the use of fabrics like voile, chiffon, silk and canvas, as well as feathers and ribbons. Prints will be re-embroidered, with crystals added as ornaments. Floral motifs and patterns harking back to the psychedelic '70s will make a comeback. Ethnic Africana and safari—peacock-feathered heels, python and croc skin, animal-shaped heels—will be strong elements.

Comfort will be key, so expect more of those ballerina flats and retro sneakers with more graphic patterns. Birkies, which became popular again with new metallic straps, will continue to get a feminine makeover with more crystal and jewel details. Platform heels and round toes will be equally hot.

Shoe trends

"Crystals will appear a lot in daytime footwear," said Michaela Schermer, who presented Swarovski's shoe trends for Spring/Summer 2006. Schermer, segment manager for crystal fashion components, and her team from the crystal company's head office in Austria and the regional office in Singapore were in town last week to hold a seminar-workshop on crystal application before local shoe manufacturers. The Philippines was the last leg of their five-city Asian visit.

"Mixing crystals with natural materials like cork, rope, raffia is a fairly new practice," Schermer said, "and these new combinations are very exciting." Crystals will also be braided into macramé, subtly bringing sparkle to a traditional material.

Swarovski's crystal components have been used in the Philippines primarily for bridal finery, and some for do-it-yourself jewelry. Since the company beefed up its presence in the country last year, Swarovski has been coming up with projects to demonstrate the versatility of crystals.

"We want projects that will show the practical application of our crystal components," Bernice Quiambao said. The Singapore-based Quiambao is the market manager for North and Southeast Asia Pacific region, and the only Filipino executive in Swarovski's regional office. Swarovski tapped the local shoe industry for its first seminar-workshop here, to be followed soon by the bag manufacturers. The company has already been conducting such seminars in RP's neighbors in the past.

Swarovski has a diversified market in the region, according to Quiambao. In Vietnam, crystals are used mostly by jewelers. Both shoes and bag manufacturers make use of them in Singapore. Crystallized Jimmy Choos, worth $8,000, are made in Malaysia, where the shoe company has a factory.

With gusto

If crystals have not been widely applied in Philippine shoes, it wasn't for lack of designers' imagination but largely because of lack of technical know-how. In the workshop at the Edsa Shangri-La on Thursday, manufacturers responded with gusto as they were taught hands-on the varied techniques in crystal application—using industrial glue or rivets, sewing, heat-press application.

Apart from the Hot Fix machine, a special Swarovski equipment that makes use of heat to press crystals onto shoe fabrics, the participants learned existing shoemaking equipment are actually used to apply the crystals, so purchase of new machines isn't necessary.

Participants included Solea, which custom-made crystallized shoes for the INQUIRER; Anne Gonzalez of Havaianas with accessories designer Happy David, who also embellished flip flops for the INQUIRER; Via Venetto, Tenorio Manila, CMG, Schu, Manels, Janylin, Rusty Lopez, Schumacher, Gibi, Label. Bag makers Fino and Aranaz were also represented.

As crystal application requires specialized techniques (crystals don't adhere to certain materials), Schermer said shoe manufacturers can submit materials they wish to adorn for testing in their laboratory in Austria.

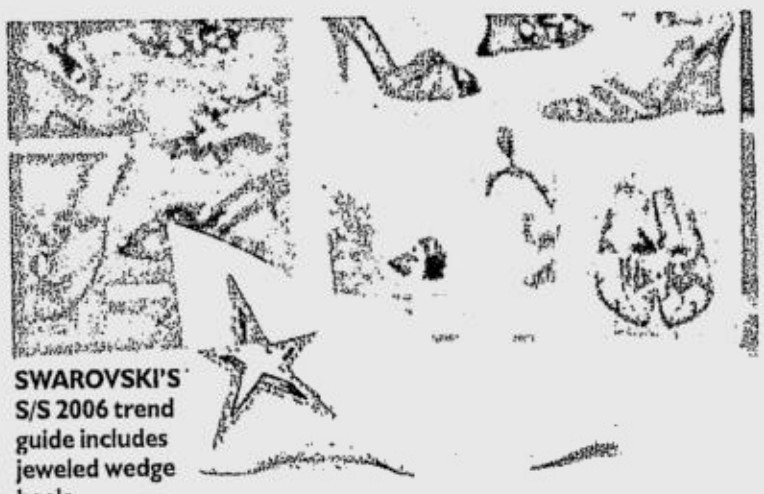
The company also custom-makes special crystal logos and components, as they do with long-time clients—top labels like Dior, Giuseppe Zanotti, and Stuart Weitzman.

"Crystals make footwear more special, if slightly more expensive, depending on how much is used," Quiambao said. "There's no special care required, however. Just wipe the crystals with a damp cloth. They don't lose their sheen."

E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

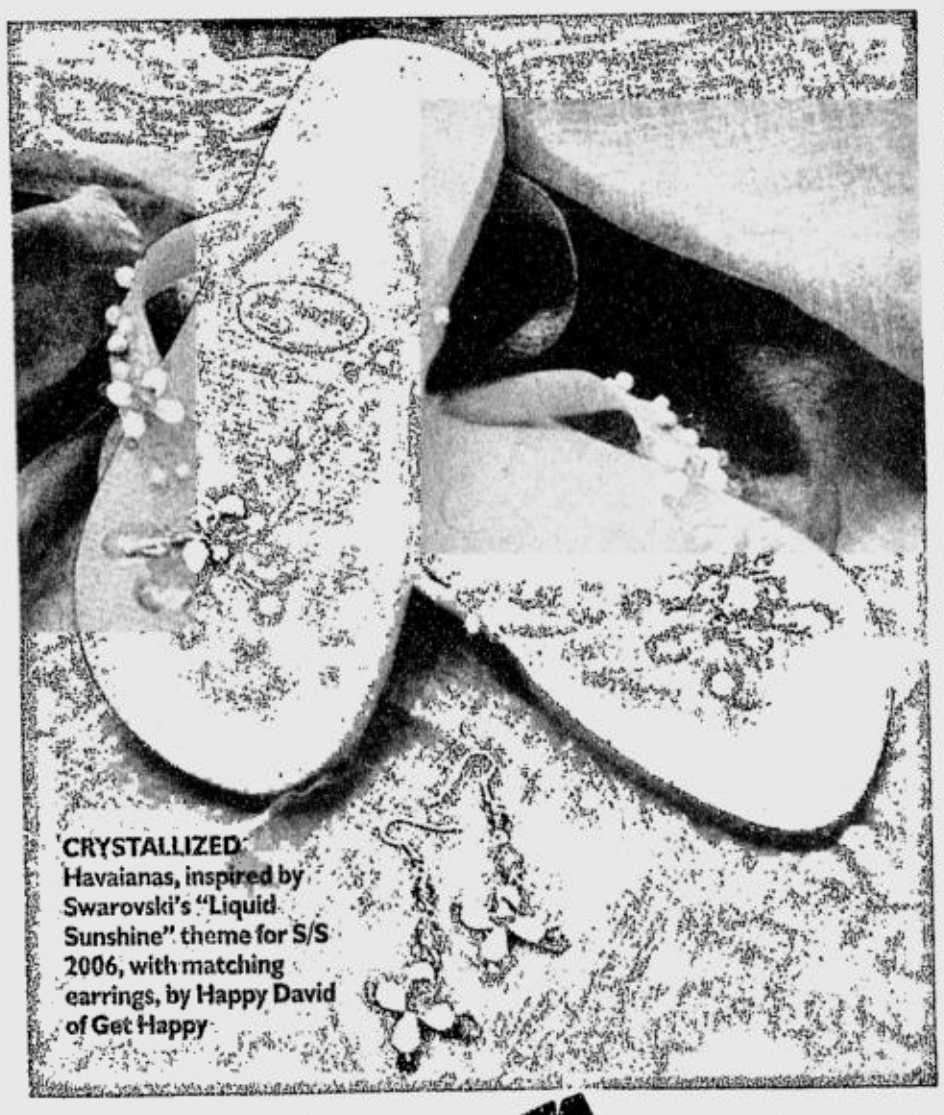
CRYSTAL centerpiece for haute-couture heels, by Via Venetto

BRIAN Tenorio of Tenorio Manila demonstrates how crystals can add luxe to men's shoes.

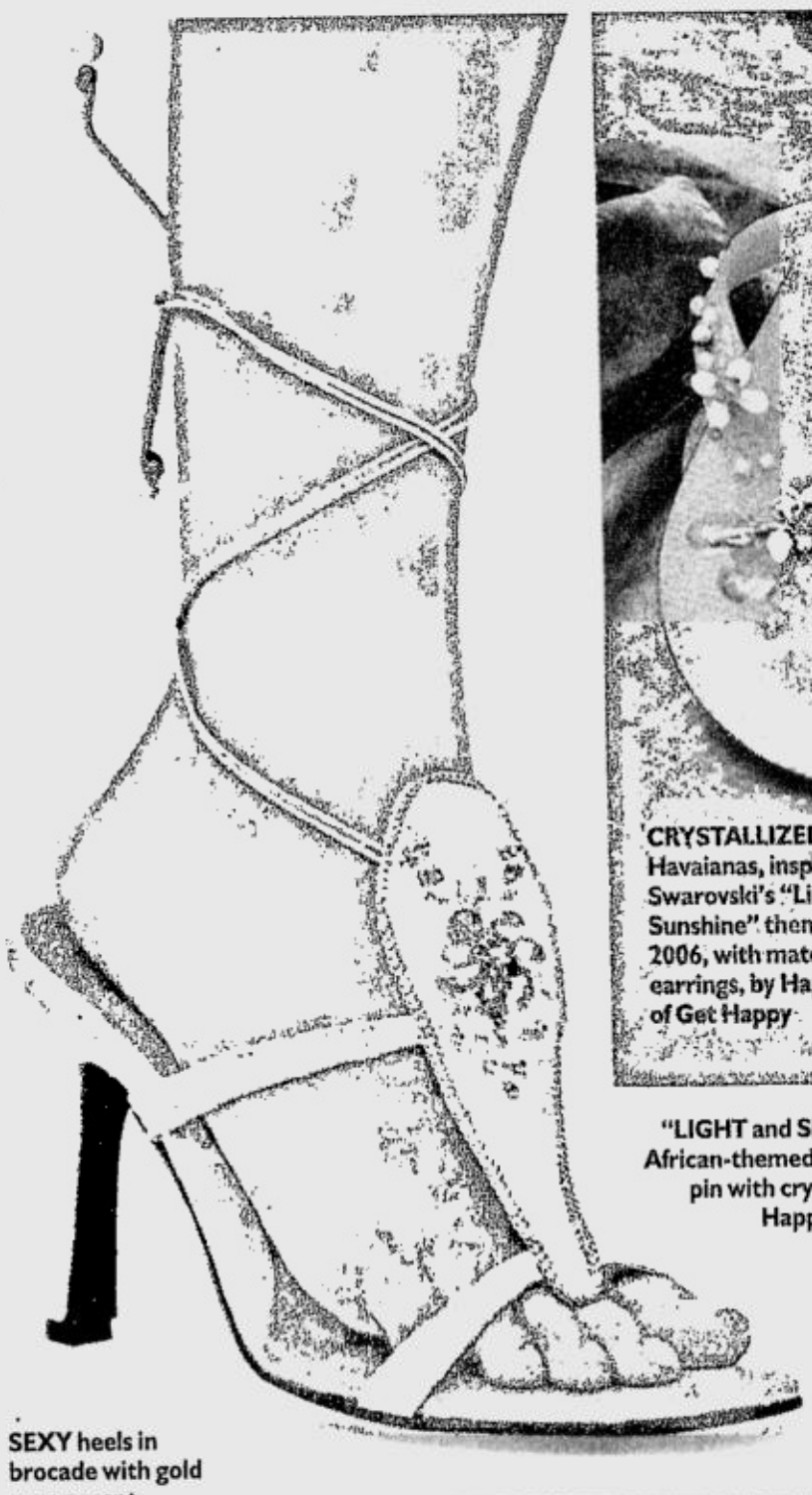


SWAROVSKI'S S/S 2006 trend guide includes jeweled wedge heels.

Swarovski on your shoes? Then the world is at your feet



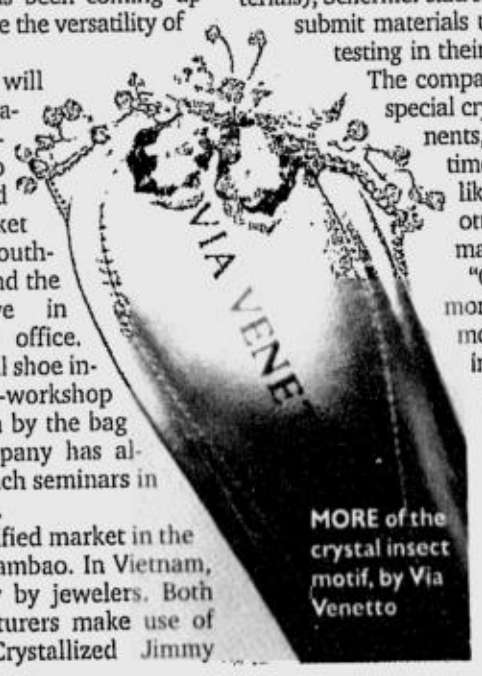
CRYSTALLIZED Havaianas, inspired by Swarovski's "Liquid Sunshine" theme for S/S 2006, with matching earrings, by Happy David of Get Happy



SEXY heels in brocade with gold rope accent, Swarovski crystals and pearl crystals, by Solea JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"LIGHT and Shadow" African-themed leather pin with crystals, by Happy David

LOCAL shoemakers and designers try their hand at the Hot Fix machine at the Swarovski seminar-workshop in Edsa Shangri-La.



MORE of the crystal insect motif, by Via Venetto

Real women vs fashion

From page E1

be corporate wear? "Try walking into Tower Club in this outfit," I said.

Forgotten

In the heat of the competition among fashion stylists—to grab attention and to shock—the real woman, who's the target of retail and designer fashion in the first place, is forgotten.

Real women lead real lives; they sweat in traffic, must face bosses, clients or colleagues who are actually after her bottom line, not her bottom, and have cellulites to camouflage. They have imperfect bodies and lives. We drool over heavenly clothes and bodies but fashion is what we can afford, can pull off—and can enhance us. Real fashion for real women must be a mix of access and aspiration, excitement and predictability.

Corporate women, I presume, already have the basics in their wardrobe: jackets and blazers, jeans and trousers, skirts, blouses and shirts, dresses, tanks, knits such as cardigan, shrugs, bolero, twin sets, and the all-time accessories of pearls, bangles, trinkets, plus leather belts, shoes and bags.

Mirror, mirror

Now, how do you tweak the classics? You can be safe and comfy without being boring. How do you know that what you have on is the best jacket or suit for you?

"The mirror," said **Auggie Cordero**, the reclusive designer known for tailored elegance. Honestly, I was planning to do fashion rules for real women, but Auggie reminded me, yet again, that fashion really has no rules.

This is why, he says, a woman must look at the mirror to see her body and proportion. You'll be surprised how, as basic as it may sound, women today really have no time to study themselves in the mirror. "For all you know it's not a new jacket you need, it's a new haircut."

The mirror details your body limitations. Auggie believes, and I agree, that today's women have that generic look. They go to the same retail brands and don't take time to study their look.

Planning is everything, Auggie says. Today's corporate woman who wants to stand out must spare the time to plan. "It's not so much investing in a brand or a designer but investing in time that will make you acquire style," he says.

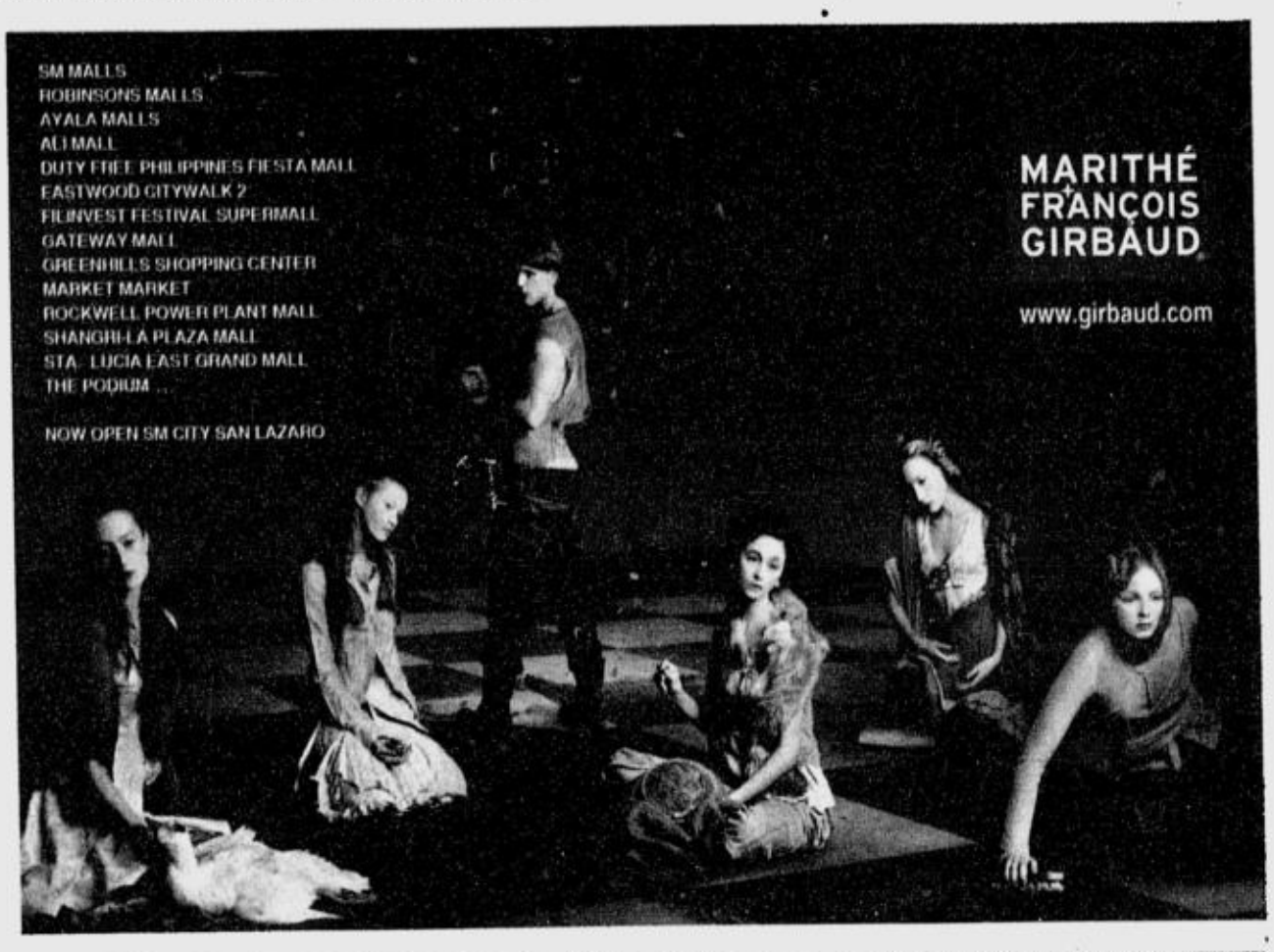
We have a common friend, **Aurora Go**, for instance, who's among the country's stylish women yet she doesn't necessarily wear brands. She's a master of putting together stuff, sometimes the night before the occasion—from a *tiangge* tank to trousers by her daughter's Viseversa, an interesting belt, silver dangles and ring.

Have the time to plan, and the open mind to change and experiment. Auggie believes the right mindset is harder to come by than the credit card to shop. Can you, for instance, try cotton?

"You'll be surprised how many corporate women shun cotton because it creases," Auggie says. Are you ready to wear polka-dot shirt underneath a pattern jacket, for instance, with a turquoise textured leather bag as accent?

After planning, you can just add or subtract from the stuff you have. "For instance, the accessories you thought were pretty are actually just cute, and you're not that young to have just cute," Auggie says.

LIME-GREEN and fatigue geometric-designed layered top and fatigue capri pants (left); soft turquoise empire-cut top with uneven hemline and white pants (above)



Maternity fashion statement

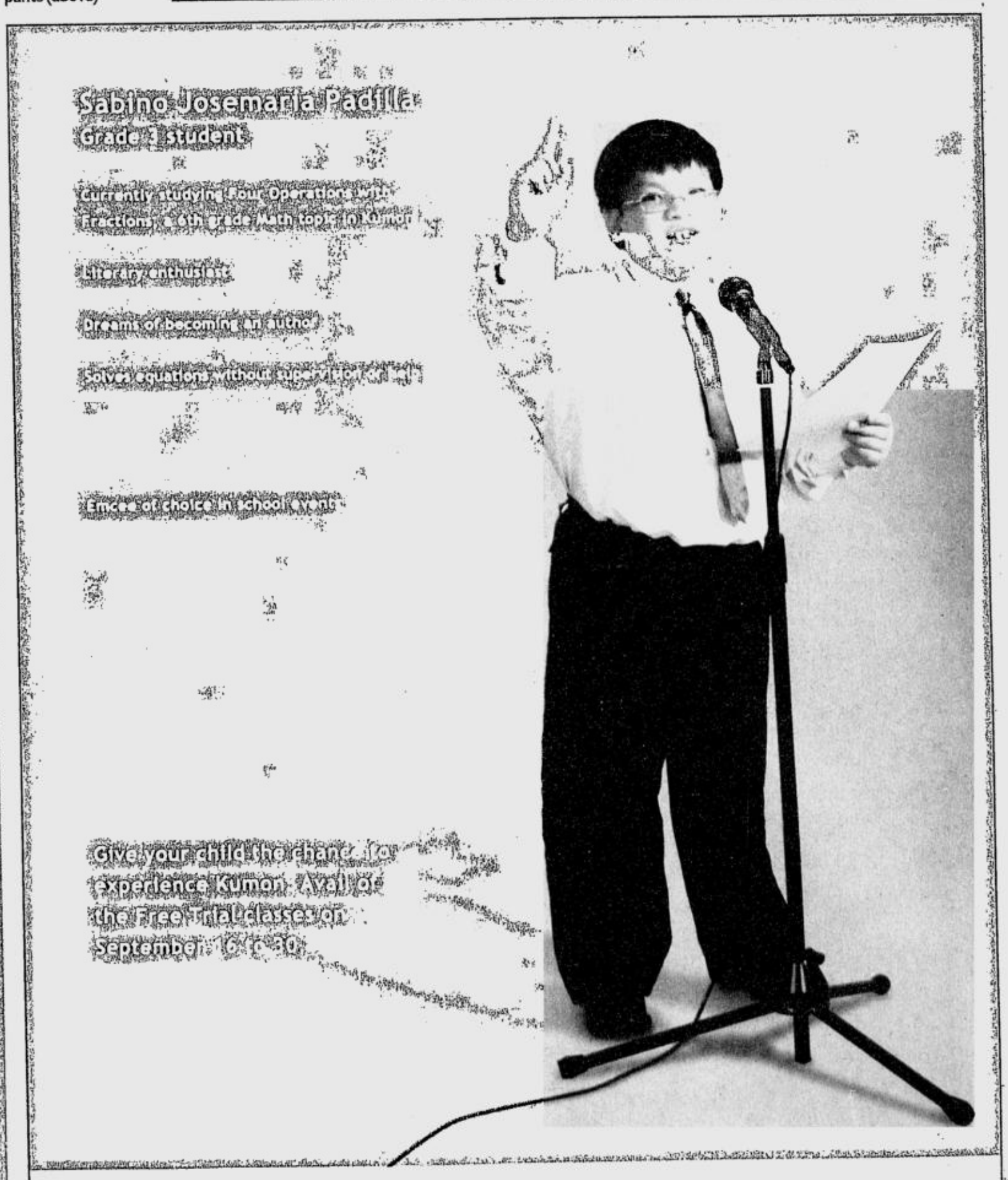
STYLE icons like Sarah Jessica Parker, Elizabeth Hurley, Julia Roberts and Catherine Zeta-Jones have shown they can make red-carpet news even while expecting.

Recent moms-to-be like crown princess Mary of Denmark, pop princess Britney Spears, Jennifer Gardner and Heidi Klum have also made maternity fashion statements.

At SM, maternity fashion includes empire tops, softly layered chiffon blouses and tube dresses in flirty floral, as well as go-getting geometric prints in pastels and earth tones.

The maternity collection is available at the Ladies Wear Department of all SM stores.

ORANGE paisley halter top and white capri pants



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KUMON

Renaissance of NY style

DKNY's Fall 2005 Ladies Collection

DKNY brings to the cooler months of the year a symphony of pieces that are both timeless yet fit for modern living. Dubbed as the Classical Renaissance collection, DKNY's look for the season beautifully combines old and new, masculine and feminine, modern and classic.

Short, tailored jackets take on an interesting and dramatic twist with aristocratic ruffled edges, ruched or bow lapels. Colors are rich and vivid in fabrics like antiqued velvet, tulle and layers of chiffon.

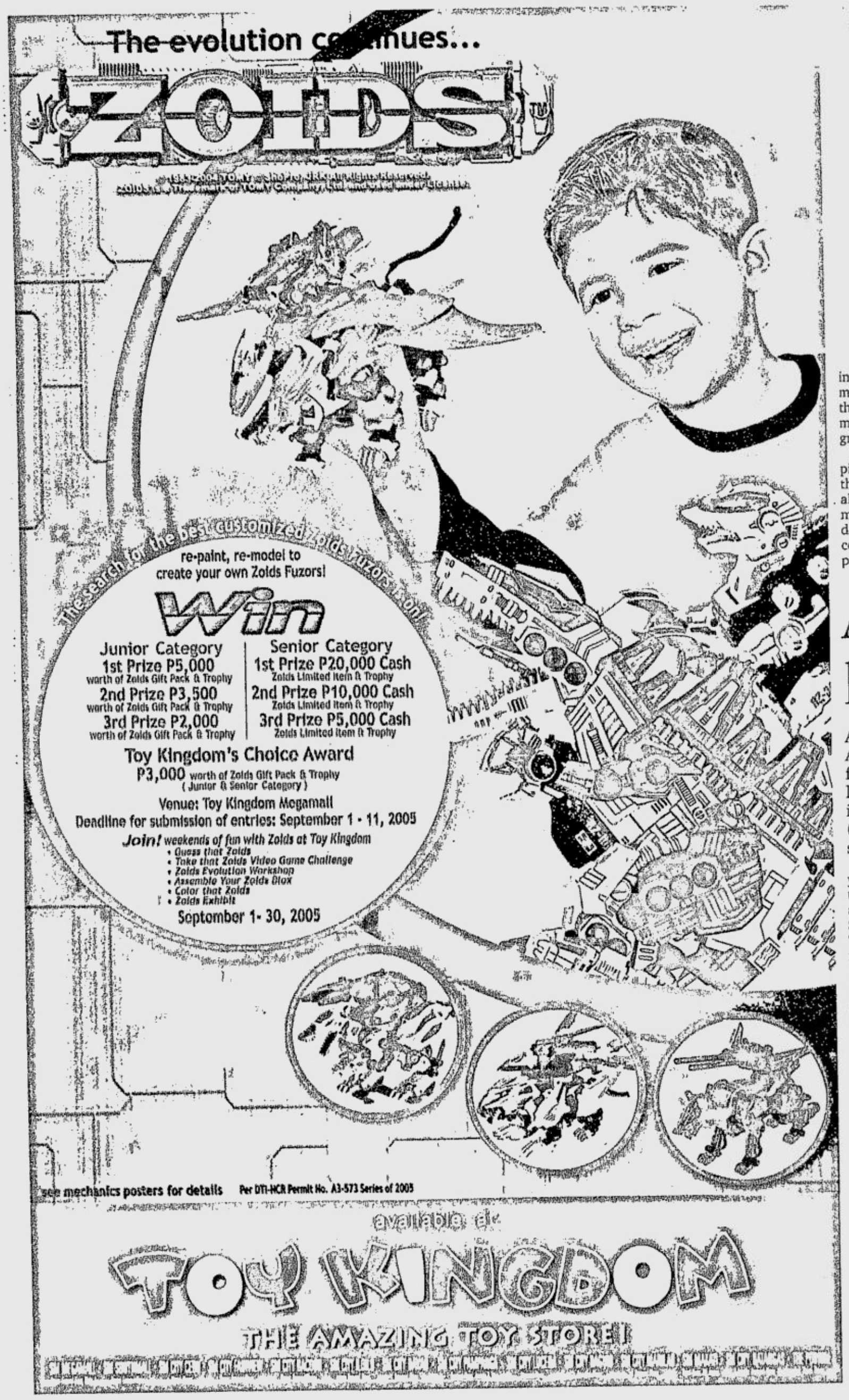
Tops bring out that fab femme in you as they give new meaning to details—neck insets, intricately embroidered beads and tapestry. Same with DKNY's latest designs for buttoned shrugs and sweet cardigans. Get into the mood for the cool breeze with an exquisite coat in haired shearling with embroidery or tapestry.

For romantic autumn nights: a sequined chiffon jacket, an alluring bare top or a dramatic strapless dress that emphasize movement and grace.

Pair off these pieces with bottoms that range from casual, tailored and romantic. As modern-day living requires comfort and easy movement, pants are definitely a must-have for all seasons.

DKNY has once again created an ensemble of pieces that bring back the charm of the Renaissance while integrating the practical styles of modern day fashion.

DKNY is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc., with shops located at the Power Plant Mall, Rustan's Makati, 158 Designers' Blvd, and Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center.



Apparel brand hits bull's eye

ARROW, the prestigious American line of clothes for men, received recently the Philippine Marketing Excellence Award (PMEA) as Most Outstanding Men's Wear.

The awards are given out every year by the PMEA Institute Inc., the Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and the Sales and Marketing Magazine. They are in recognition of companies that earn a high level of customer satisfaction and market appreciation. The accomplishments are partly attributed to effective marketing methods.

Arrow provides a complete line of apparel for the stylish cosmopolitan male. It is distributed in the Philippines by Corporate Apparel Inc.. The line includes formal and casual wear, sportswear and underwear.

Arrow products are sold in 17 boutiques and selected department stores. The company also has a variety of accessories such as wallets, belts and neckties.

Last month, it launched its new collection for women, Arrow Woman.

Corporate apparel assistant vice president Aileesa G. Lim said, though Arrow had earned international recognition, the Philippine Marketing award was a first for the brand in the country. She said it was also achieved by the brand in just five years in the local market.

PMEA winners like Arrow were chosen by consumers and marketing professionals through surveys, focus group discussions, and market research. Criteria included market dominance, consumer awareness and innovative marketing practices, among others.

AWARD committee chair Felix Lao, Corporate Apparel Inc. AVP Aileesa Lim, actress Melanie Marquez, brand manager Ann Marie Ong and former Tourism Secretary Obet Pagdanganan

■ SUPER / C2
Keep the Saturday night vibe alive; party in our living room

■ WORLD / A8
Israel reaps diplomatic dividends from Gaza pullout

■ BUSINESS / B1
Gov't posts budget surplus; BIR exceeds collection target by 6%

■ ACROSS / A16
500 mayors sign covenant to war on 'jueteng'

Impeachment tug-of-war a game of 'Laban-Bawi'

Blanche S. Rivera

CONGRESS has more than enough contestants for the noontime game show "Laban-Bawi."

With pressure growing on congressmen not to

IMPEACHMENT/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Saturday, September 3, 2005 ★★ 54 pages / 7 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 267 P18

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Admin lawmakers want VAT on power deferred

By Michael Lim Ubac and TJ Burgonio

WITH the government facing the politically unpalatable task of implementing an expanded value-added tax alongside soaring oil prices, following a Supreme Court ruling that the new VAT measure was legal, administration legislators yesterday sought to delay the

ADMIN / A6

3 bishops got up to ₱4M from Pagcor

Vidal heads list of recipients

HEROIC efforts expended to resist public pressure to tell all: Clockwise from top left: Florencio Abad, former education secretary; Dinky Soliman, ex-DSWD secretary; Alberto Lina, ex-customs commissioner; Imelda Nicolas, ex-chair, National Anti-Poverty Commission; Ging Deles, former presidential adviser on the peace process and Guillermo Parayno, ex-BIR commissioner. RYAN LIM

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PRICKLY issue of gambling money and the Church has again been highlighted by allegations that three prominent bishops are receiving "donations" ranging from P500,000 to P4 million from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

A source in the state-run gambling agency named the prelates as Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of San Fernando, Pampanga.

The source, who provided the INQUIRER with documents but asked not to be named, said the donations to the bishops were usually taken from the "intelligence fund" of Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

This intelligence fund is not subjected to regular auditing procedures, and only Genuino and a ranking official of the Commission on Audit know how it is disbursed, the source told the INQUIRER.

The source stressed that it was not illegal for Pagcor to donate cash to the Church. But the morality of accepting money from gambling is a different matter for the clergy, he said.

Pagcor has also been giving cash gifts to clergymen on special occasions like Christmas, according to the source.

"These amounts are given regularly," the source said. "They are open to the eyes of those who'd like to see them."

The source furnished the INQUIRER a copy of a three-page memorandum showing the breakdown of "Christmas gifts in the form of cash donation" to five bishops, 45 priests and monsignors and 18 religious groups.

The document was signed by Genuino and was received by Pagcor's board of directors on Dec. 8, 2003.

Just last month, Caloocan

3 BISHOPS/ A6

ILLUMINED by candlelight, the interfaith prayer meeting attended by former President Cory Aquino, Susan Roces, Bro. Eddie Villanueva and a host of varied groups pushing for the impeachment of President Arroyo comes to a close at La Salle Green Hills in San Juan on Friday night. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

For first time, Cory, Susan lead united opposition against GMA

By Fe Zamora and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR THE first time, the two widows stood in public together, their hands clasped, as they and various opposition groups consolidated their forces against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Both dressed in white, former President Corazon Aquino and actress Susan Roces led about 500 people, including dozens of lawmakers, in a proimpeachment prayer meeting last night.

Aquino, who inspired a popular revolt that helped topple Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, summed it all up as she spoke to the gathering in a makeshift chapel at the La Salle Green Hills.

"God does work in mysterious ways," Aquino said. "I am sure that if more and more of us pray and ask the Lord to bring us close to the truth, He will ... grant us not only 79 but more than 79, although we will be happy with 79."

The gathering erupted in applause. Aquino was referring to the 79 signatures needed to propel to the Senate for trial the opposition's amended impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

FOR FIRST TIME/ A6

3 more solons endorse impeach complaint

By Michael Lim Ubac, Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

AS THE move to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo gained three more endorsers, an administration stalwart yesterday admitted that the opposition-backed amended complaint, which was trashed along with the two other complaints on Wednesday, would be resurrected if 79 signatures are gathered.

"They can have their cake and eat it, too," said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, vice chair of the House committee on justice. "If they have 79 signatures, I think the complaint of preference of the 79 [should be the one sent to the Senate for trial]."

Lagman, a lawyer, made the admission at the Rembrandt news forum in Quezon City, repeating what he said over ANC television Thursday night.

The INQUIRER learned that three more administration lawmakers, including one from a party-list group, had endorsed the amended complaint, bringing the number to 75.

But upon their request, their names would be withheld until Monday.

Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes had a list of 73 endorsers, only six shy of the 79, until Rep. Rodolfo Agbayani (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Nueva Vizcaya) withdrew his signature on Thurs-

3 MORE/ A6

'Hyatt 10': We're not heroes, not whistle-blowers

By Fe Zamora and Norman Bordadora

OVER late-night snacks of nachos and sandwiches, a key member of the "Hyatt 10" made one thing clear.

"Don't look at us ... We can't be the heroes that you want us to be," resigned Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said Thursday night, suggesting that bringing out the truth behind the political scandals that have shaken the Arroyo administration was not a job for the Hyatt 10 alone but for everyone.

In other words, we're doing our share. Do yours.

Parayno and five other members of the Hyatt 10 met with INQUIRER editors and reporters amid persistent calls for the group to share with the nation what they know about the Arroyo presidency.

The group admitted feeling intense public pressure to "reveal everything" and help bring down their former boss.

"We are not whistle-blowers," ex-Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said. She said the public wanted the group to

HYATT 10/ A6

Pinoy troops were left out in Yamashita surrender

By Augusto V. de Viana
National Historical Institute

(Editor's Note: The country yesterday marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Philippines. President Macapagal-Arroyo led commemorative rites yesterday in Kiangan, Ifugao, the site of Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita's surrender to the Allied forces on Sept. 2, 1945. See related story on Page A10.)

THE EXCLUSION of the Filipinos from the surrender of Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita on Sept. 2, 1945, was a source of disappointment for the Filipinos who bore the brunt of the fighting and suffered the biggest number of casualties in

PINOY/ A10

Shoot-to-kill for New Orleans looters

IMAGES FROM A DYING CITY: Man carrying an infant through the floodwaters in New Orleans near the Superdome where tens of thousands of homeless residents sought shelter before, during and after the killer Hurricane Katrina hit. *(More photos on Page A11.)* AP/US NAVY

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana—While rotting bodies littered its flooded streets, hurricane-devastated New Orleans was primed for all-out combat Friday, as Iraq-tested troops with shoot-to-kill orders moved in to quell rioters and looters.

"This is a war zone," said Melissa Murray, 32, a Louisiana state corrections officer helping in the relief effort.

Several thousand people were believed to have been killed by Hurricane Katrina.

The deployment of 300 members of the Arkansas National Guard came ahead of a tour of the affected region by President George W. Bush, who vowed "zero tolerance" for the armed gangs terrorizing the historic jazz city.

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said the guardsmen had been authorized to open fire on "hoodlums" profiteering from the destruction wrought by Katrina.

"These troops are fresh back from Iraq, well trained, experi-

SHOOT/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005

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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, FDI RESEARCH/09/03/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

DOTC exec quits, slams graft

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE FORMER mayor of a Pangasinan town where the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. got "zero" in the May 2004 elections has resigned from the government post to which he was appointed after the polls in disgust over corruption.

Antonio A. Villar Jr., former mayor of Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan, resigned on Thursday as assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication due to alleged corruption in the transport agency.

In his Sept. 1 letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, a copy of which was faxed to the INQUIRER, Villar said he was "nauseated by the web of corruption in the bureaucracy, particularly in the land transport sector of the DOTC."

"I must admit that I can no longer hide my dissatisfaction with the DOTC to a point that some people, in and outside the administration, may have mistaken me ripe for recruitment to the other side of the political spectrum," said Villar in his letter to the President.

"They are absolutely wrong as I would rather be a credible nonpartisan critic of misgovernance," he added.

A three-term mayor and a member of the administration party, Villar was credited for ensuring a zero vote for FPJ in Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan.

Villar first submitted a letter of resignation to Malacañang in late May and was supposed to be effective on June 1. At that time, he complained about not being productive in DOTC arising from lack of funds. But his resignation was not accepted.

This time, Villar's resignation was irrevocable. But he said he was willing to be appointed to another position.

"Rendered inutile and helpless at the DOTC, may I now tender my irrevocable resignation as DOTC Assistant Secretary and likewise as member of the Board of Directors of the PEA Tollways Corp.," said the former mayor.

He said his resignation at DOTC and PEA Tollways was "without prejudice to serving at the President's pleasure in any other official capacity elsewhere in the government."

"I assumed my position with fervor then, with passion burning to assist in the realization of your vision of good governance fostering a better quality of life for the Filipino people," said Villar in his letter.

"Short as it may seem, it has been a great honor for me and my family to have been of service to the Filipino people and the administration," he added.

Villar was the founding chair of Biskeg, a multiparty group in Pangasinan which means strength in Ilocano. Biskeg campaigned for President Arroyo in the May 2004 elections.

Ricardo Alfonso, DOTC undersecretary assigned on land transport said he was not aware of what Villar was referring to when he spoke about corruption in land transportation.

"Maybe he was concerned about land transport in his hometown. I really don't know what he was talking about," said Alfonso.

Villar was also a member of the board of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport and the Mactan Cebu International Airport.

The former mayor was appointed as DOTC assistant secretary for the air sector about eight months ago, according to DOTC spokesperson Thompson Lantion.

The department had not received an official word about Villar's resignation, Lantion said. "What I just heard was that he was packing up."

PRESIDENT Arroyo hugs Vinz Sermonia, one of three children rescued by lawmen from kidnappers on Wednesday. Watching are brothers Jin Ritz and Klevyelt, their parents and their nanny, Eulalia Cuevas. LYN RILLON

GMA warns kidnappers: Anti-kidnap task force 'back in fighting form'

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned kidnap-for-ransom groups a reconstituted anti-kidnapping task force was "back in fighting form" and ready to do battle.

The President issued the warning as she thanked police authorities for rescuing last Wednesday three children and their nanny who were held for 36 hours in Payatas, Quezon City, by their kidnappers, two of whom were police officers.

President Arroyo met the kidnap victims at the Presidential Security Group premises at Malacañang Park yesterday. She hugged the Sermonia children—11-year-old twin brothers Jin Ritz and Klevyelt and their nine-year-old sister Vinz—and exclaimed, "Praise the Lord, very glad to have you back," as their parents and their nanny, 60-year-old Eulalia Cuevas looked on.

The Sermonia twins celebrated their birthdays yesterday.

Last Aug. 31, agents of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force and the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) rescued the victims at a house in Peñafrancia, barangay Payatas-B in Quezon City.

The victims were kidnapped the day before near Miller St. at the Filinvest subdivision in Quezon City.

The rescue effort and a subsequent police operation in Lower Bicutan, Taguig City, resulted in the arrest of six kidnappers. One of them was PO1 Antonio Castillo, 33, a native of Banlacong in Ilagan, Isabela, and an active member of the Philippine National Police assigned with the Aviation Security Group.

A day after the arrests, another suspect, PO1 Jose Lonmar Sapatos, a member of the 3rd battalion of the PNP Special Action Force, surrendered to the Pacer on Thursday.

Also arrested earlier were Crispin Araneta, 24, and Anabelle Olidan, 31, both of Pototan, Iloilo, and Benjamin Olidan, 30, of Carigara, Leyte, believed to have acted as lookouts; and Godofredo Navanes, 39, of Ajuy, Iloilo and Lynfer Bicudo, 39, of Dingle, Iloilo.

They were what remained of the Ilonggo KFR Group, according to Philippine National Police Chief Arturo Lomibao.

"The message we want to give is that we would not tolerate any violation of the rule of law," President Arroyo said as the seven suspects were presented to the media.

She disclosed that she had ordered Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes to reconstitute the anti-kidnapping task force in the face of a "resurgence" in kidnappings. "They're back in fighting form and ready to face whoever is behind the new challenges," Ms Arroyo said.

Police said the rescue operation was successful in large part due to the cooperation of members of the community where the victims were kept by their kidnappers.

Soldiers are 'concerned' over impeach, VAT issues

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE COUNTRY'S soldiers are "concerned" about the House of Representatives' junking of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, and lately, the Supreme Court's approval of the e-VAT law, the military chief said yesterday.

But unlike the civilian sector, the military would bear it as "professional soldiers."

"I think the word dismayed is not the appropriate term" to describe the sentiments in the military, AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga said in an interview yesterday.

"The members of the Armed Forces represent a cross section of our society. We are concerned about what's going on, but since we are professional soldiers, what we do is monitor [developments] but we just focus on our main preoccupation which is protecting our country and running after those groups threatening our peace, order and security," he went on.

His predecessor, retired Gen. Efren Abu, had said the military should remain "apolitical" and "neutral" in the face of calls for the President's resignation due to alleged election cheating.

Senga said he did not sense any public outrage building up as a reaction to the aborted impeachment process.

"I think everything is normal," he said, adding that the role of the military and police now was "to ensure that the freedom of expression is respected."

Senga said they had not monitored new "destabilization" threats, even from within the military.

An alleged group of rebel junior officers calling itself the Young Officers' Generation of the new generation (YOUng) has not been heard from since last month.

A military fact-finding board headed by AFP Insp. Gen. Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga had been quietly doing its job looking into allegations that some members of the military took part in an alleged plot to cheat for the President in last year's elections.

The four generals mentioned in the alleged wiretapped conversations between Ms Macapagal and missing elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were among those being investigated.

But the military did not touch the so-called "Hello Garci" tape, believed to have come from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Three weeks ago, Isafp led a controversial raid in an opposition safehouse in San Mateo, Rizal, and seized voluminous election returns which were supposedly evidence of election fraud.

Authorities eventually returned all the documents and did not press charges against the opposition's documents analyst Segundo Tabayoyong, who rented the house.

A DEMONSTRATOR hurls paint bombs at the offices of oil companies in Makati Friday to protest the steep increase in gas prices. ERIK ARAZAS

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JI MILITANTS IDENTIFIED

6 Indon terror suspects sighted in Davao City

By Charlie C. Señase, Jeoffrey Maitem and Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY – At least six Indonesian members of the regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah have been sighted in Davao City, police authorities said.

Davao City police director Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy said their "spotters" in the barangays were able to identify the six JI suspects from a set of photos and names they handed out as part of their regular monitoring campaign against terrorism.

Cuy, however, refused to reveal the names of the suspects.

"I was told there was a female but I could not identify a female from the six names," he said.

Cuy said the suspects were part of a larger group that was tasked to sow terror in the country.

A senior intelligence official confirmed yesterday that intelligence agents have been tracking down the six JI members since last month.

"The police were looking for them in Davao. This was the basis for the target hardening measures (we employed there) during the Kadayawan festival," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The JI members are believed to be Indonesians, and are well-trained in explosives.

Last month, the intelligence community disclosed that around 10 JI members have slipped into the country to conduct a new wave of attacks.

Reports said two of them were supposedly in Metro Manila.

This week, Malacañang warned that the capital could be the target of terrorist attacks which could involve weapons of mass destruction, dirty bombs and biological weapons.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said they had gathered "pretty disturbing information that terrorists might be planning a major attack in National Capital Region."

"They are now in serious stage of planning a new wave of terror. We have to weigh the consequences of either scaring our people or just keeping quiet with what we know," he said.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte earlier warned of possible terror attacks by the JI and the Abu Sayyaf during the Kadawayan Festival, the city's annual thanksgiving festival.

Duterte said terrorists were only waiting for opportunity to strike again.

In 2003, at least 49 people were killed while several others were wounded when bombs went off at the Davao International Airport and the Sasa wharf.

The military said at least 31 suspected JI operatives have been deployed all over Mindanao to stage more bombings.

"We are doing everything possible to make Davao City safe," Cuy said.

But Benjamin Lao, regional alien control officer at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, warned authorities against hastily identifying Indonesian nationals as having ties with the JI group.

Thousands of Indonesians reside in Davao City and in neighboring areas.

In a related development, suspected terrorists belonging to the Abu Sayyaf and the JI escaped during an hour-long misencounter between government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Barangay Gawang in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao on Thursday.

"The running gun-battle for about one hour with MILF forces under commander Wahid Tundok gave opportunity to Abu Sayyaf and JI members to elude and disappear from pursuing troops," Maj. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade, said a soldier was wounded during the firefight.

Dolorfino told the INQUIRER that soldiers from the 6th Infantry Battalion were conducting operation against Abu Sayyaf bandits under Khadaffy Janjalani when the incident took place.

"The military coordinated the operation on Wednesday. We are determining why the misencounter happened," Dolorfino said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga said he wants to know if the MILF violated an existing agreement, which resulted in Thursday's pre-dawn clash.

Senga said the government has a "clear agreement" with the MILF that the rebels would not get in the way of military operations against the Abu Sayyaf group in so-called MILF territories. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Cops brace for more street protests

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE vowed to exercise maximum tolerance yesterday as they geared up for protests expected to greet the implementation of the Expanded Value-Added Tax Law.

"We expect there will be a lot of protests again," National Capital Region Police Office Director Vidal Querol said yesterday. "But the right (to hold rallies) can be and will be exercised as long as they do not interfere with the right of others to live in peace."

The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the VAT law on Thursday, but said it could not yet be implemented until the tribunal lifted its own order deferring its implementation.

Implementation is expected to further raise prices of basic commodities even as prices of oil products surge.

"Rising prices make it more difficult for people to cope. Then incidents of crime against properties and protests might erupt," Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes said as he reiterated the observance of maximum tolerance.

Querol appealed to groups planning to stage mass actions to be "responsible."

"We respect their right to hold rallies. But they should return that respect. They should not trample on the rights of others," he added.

He said street protests usually created "a lot of chaos" making life "more difficult" for motorists and commuters.

Querol had already banned rallies in front of the Batasang Pambansa after dozens, including a 7-year-old boy, were hurt during a violent dispersal Wednesday afternoon.

"Rallies in front of the Batasang Pambansa block the flow of traffic. This inconveniences officials and employees going in and out of the compound," he added.

Querol disclosed the police were already trying to delineate the areas where protests could be held. He said they would likely put up a "buffer" hundred meters away from the BP main gate beyond which both pro- and anti-Arroyo protesters could gather.

15 protected areas eyed by gov't as energy sources

By Blanche S. Rivera

IN ITS frantic search for alternative and cheap energy sources, the government has not spared even protected areas from exploration.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources revealed that nine of the 15 energy projects being undertaken by the government and private firms are situated in protected landscapes and seascapes, or proposed protected areas.

A report by DENR's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau showed that drilling and other exploration activities are being done in protected areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao identified as potential sources of oil, gas and geothermal energy.

Protected areas that have been tapped as sites for geothermal projects are Mt. Apo in Davao, where 710 hectares have been curbed out for the project; Mt. Kanlaon in Negros; Balinsasayao Twin Lakes National Park in Negros Occidental; and Mahagnao Volcano Nature Park in Leyte.

A hydroelectric power project is ongoing in San Roque, Pangasinan, while another has been proposed in the Aklan River Watershed Forest Reserve, PAWB executive director Mundita Lim said in an interview.

"This is a pet project of the DoE (Department of Energy)... I think they want to redirect the flow of the river," Lim said. The DoE and DENR last discussed the Timbaban project in Aklan two weeks ago.

Lim said the DENR in region 6 has asked for a detailed assessment of the extent of biodiversity in the area and a technical description of the location of the proposed hydroelectric power plant in the forest reserve.

She also said the proponents of the Timbaban hydro-power plant in the watershed could not proceed without the prior informed consent of the indigenous peoples in the area.

Under the law, the DoE is the sole agency that approves energy projects, but the DENR must be consulted if protected areas, particularly those with high biodiversity, would be affected.

The DENR has not yet been updated by the DoE on the status of the ongoing and proposed projects, Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro said.

Aside from the Malampaya natural gas project, which is now producing gas for the country, the DoE is also eyeing the Alibijaban Wilderness Area for premier gas exploration by the PNOC Exploration Corp.; Lake Buluan in Maguindanao for oil and gas; Tañon Strait for oil; and Calauit, Palawan.

The government has also approved projects in proposed protected areas such as the Liguasan Marsh in South Cotabato for oil and gas; Ragay Gulf in Luzon; Mt. Natib in Bataan for a geothermal plant; and Mt. Cabalian-Cantocloc in Leyte, also for a geothermal plant.

Lim said she was sure that the Mt. Kanlaon, Mt. Apo and the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes projects have gone through the legal process of exploring protected areas, but the rest would have to be reviewed.

De Castro said the DoE should submit a technical study of the project to the Committee on Energy Projects in NIPAS Areas (Cepna), which is chaired jointly by the DENR. De Castro is the co-chair of the current Cepna.

The Cepna evaluates the proposal and then asks the Protected Areas Management Board to convene. The PAMB's endorsement is submitted to the DENR Secretary who then asks the DoE to incorporate DENR recommendations to the project.

"It's really the DoE that initiates meetings concerning pipeline projects, but this time we will ask for the DoE to convene the Cepna soon, most probably within the month," De Castro said.

"We want to check the status of the projects in protected areas because we have not been updated," he said.

The first and last Cepna meeting was held three years ago when the joint department order of the DoE and DENR creating the Cepna was signed.

CHINESE STUDIES AT ATENEO
Benefactors Ricardo Leong and his wife Rosita sign agreement with Ateneo de Manila University president Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J. and vice president for the Loyola Schools Anna Miren G. Intal to establish the Ricardo Leong Center for Chinese Studies. Named after an outstanding graduate of Ateneo de Manila and Forham University in New York, and funded with an endowment from his family, the center was launched on Sept. 1 to help Filipinos understand and appreciate China in all her aspects. The Ateneo is probably the only university in the country where Mandarin is offered from basic to advanced levels.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Only 3,000 delinquent gun owners sought amnesty

By Luige A. del Puerto

NEARLY 3,000 gun owners have availed of the government's firearms amnesty program in the last six months, records from the Philippine National Police-Firearms and Explosives Division showed.

The number pales in comparison to the 400,000 guns whose licenses have expired. Police said there are 900,000 registered firearms in the country.

"We are urging the public to take advantage of the amnesty, which ends this month," said Chief Supt. Arturo Cacdac, chief of the PNP-FED.

Cacdac reminded gun owners to renew their licenses now, adding he would not recommend an extension. Records showed that a total of 2,842 gun owners applied for amnesty from March to August this year.

Cacdac said given the Filipino habit of finishing a job at the last minute, he expected gun owners to rush to the PNP-FED office late this month.

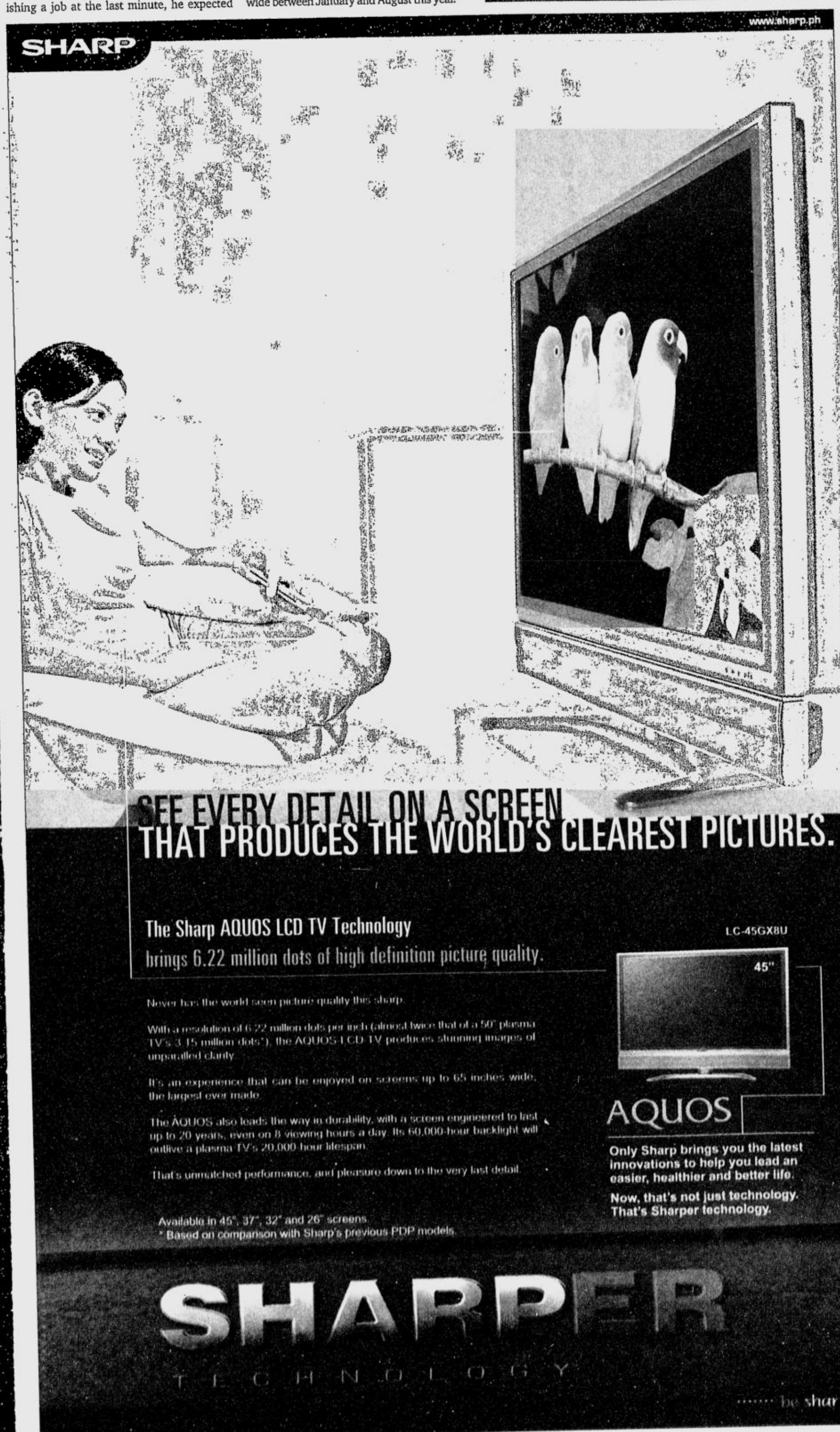
The PNP has repeatedly pointed out that nearly 90 percent of guns used in crimes are loose firearms. Private armed groups, some of them maintained by politicians, also prefer loose guns since they are difficult to trace.

This means there is a direct connection between loose firearms and criminality. Police estimated the number of loose firearms in the country at 150,000.

Following a wave of killings early this year, police tightened up the issuance of permits to carry (PTC) firearms.

"We are tackling the issue on two fronts," Cacdac explained. "On one hand, we urge people to renew their licenses and take advantage of the amnesty program. On the other hand, we aggressively go after loose firearms in bars and checkpoints."

The campaign has netted 1,395 guns nationwide between January and August this year.



3 bishops got up to P4M from Pagcor

From page A1

Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez admitted that his diocese sometimes received help from Pagcor.

Iñiguez said the money went directly to the poor through the Social Action Centers of the Church.

But in a January 2004 statement, the CBCP said it did not "encourage this manner of helping the poor."

"It could easily be construed as approving and promoting the culture of gambling, and thereby scandalize the faithful," the CBCP said.

4 times since '02

Cardinal Vidal allegedly received P500,000 on at least four occasions since 2002.

The source listed the check numbers as 93553, 63141, 75197 and 88314. The last three checks were supposedly encashed on March 4, 2002, Feb. 3, 2003, and March 15, 2004.

Vidal is in Manila, presumably to meet with other Church officials, Msgr. Achilles Dakay, media liaison officer of the Cebu Archdiocese, said on Thursday.

Sought for comment by the INQUIRER in Cebu City, Dakay said Vidal's stand was that it would not be good to accept donations from agencies running legalized gambling.

"In the midst of the struggle to eliminate gambling, if we will receive funds from those agencies, even if these will go directly to the poor, it can be perceived that the Church condones gambling," he said.

Dakay said the Cebu Archdiocese had stopped receiving funds from Pagcor and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) for almost a decade now, starting when the Church aired strong opposition to the state-run lotto.

He said Vidal had directed all parishes under the archdiocese to do the same. "But the problem is that there are agencies in the Church that still continue to receive donations from [Pagcor and the PCSO] without our sanction," he said without naming the agencies.

Conduits

Archbishop Capalla is widely perceived as a close supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo owing to his contributions to the government's peace initiatives in Mindanao.

Commenting on the donations, Capalla said: "In January 2004, the CBCP came up with a statement on gambling. We denied that bishops were receiving money from 'jueteng' lords.

"But there are other Church institutions that have received donations from Pagcor for the sake of the poor. In a way, these institutions acted as conduits between Pagcor and the poor.

"During the time of President Joseph Estrada, there was a blue ribbon committee investigation, and the names of bishops receiving donations from Pagcor, including mine, came out.

"We will not encourage even legal gambling because it promotes addiction. We also do not encourage donations, even those coming from legal gambling."

Asked if he was still receiving donations from Pagcor, Capalla said: "Some people still come to us for help, and we just refer them to Pagcor. The conduit element is no more. The Church receiving donations from Pagcor, that was before. What is clear is that then and now, all donations go directly to the poor."

No knowledge

Archbishop Aniceto came under fire in the past for supposedly treating with kid gloves the controversy involving some of his priests who were openly receiving money from jueteng lords in Pampanga, Ms Arroyo's home province.

Aniceto could not be reached for comment. But Msgr. Cenovio Lumanog, his spokesperson and the vicar general of the San Fernando Archdiocese, disclaimed knowledge of whether the archdiocese was a "big recipient of Pagcor funds."

P3M for Christmas

The INQUIRER was also furnished copies of 19 disbursement vouchers showing that certain priests had claimed their cash gifts from Pagcor.

All of the vouchers showed that the amount was intended as "assistance for various socio-civic and charitable projects for the poor."

But some priests appeared more fortunate than the others.

From the memorandum, Msgr. Jerome Reyes, judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Manila, Fr. Larry Faraon, and Fr. Jerry Orbos each got P25,000. So did Fathers Richard Varela, Rey Reyes, Gerardo Tapiador and Guido Arguelles.

For the rest of the priests, the donations were either P5,000 or P10,000.

In all, the Pagcor donation for Christmas 2003 amounted to P3,305,000.

The list showed that P500,000 was each allocated for Vidal, Aniceto and Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra; P100,000 each for Capalla and Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros; and P10,000 for Imus Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle.

'No way'

But Pagcor spokesperson Edward King scoffed at the allegation that the agency had been giving hefty cash donations to the clergy from Genuino's intelligence fund.

"No way. Our donations are all aboveboard. We have documents to prove that," King told the INQUIRER.

"If there's a memorandum, show it to us. We'll check it; it could be fake," he said.

King said Pagcor's practice of giving donations to the Church for its "Caritas" projects dated back to the term of President Corazon Aquino.

"We've been doing this since the time of Cory and [the late Jaime Cardinal] Sin. These [donations] were used for community service, work and assistance," he said, stressing that the money was taken from Pagcor's "community service fund."

But when asked to whom such donations were given, he said: "I'm not sure."

When asked about the allegation that Pagcor had been giving cash gifts to clergymen on special occasions like Christmas, King said: "That can't happen."

He said Pagcor was swamped with requests for financial aid, including from priests, but added that only the "meritorious" ones were approved.

Moral high ground

But according to activist priests, the Church loses the moral high ground when it receives gambling money, whether from an illegal or legal source.

"How can you preach against gambling when you receive gambling money? What's the difference between receiving money from jueteng and receiving money from lotto or sweepstakes?" Fr. Robert Reyes said.

Reyes said receiving money from Pagcor had been an issue within the Church for some time now.

He said that by tolerating the practice, the Church was practicing a "double standard."

Reyes said that during Estrada's impeachment trial in 2001, priests met with Cardinal Sin and told him that the Archdiocese of Manila should stop receiving money from Pagcor.

But the issue was not resolved then, he said.

To the stand of certain clergymen that they were using the money to help the poor, Fr. Raul "Puti" Fernandez said the argument that the means justified the end did not, and should not, wash.

"This is a moral issue and gambling is morally evil. It's corrupting," Fernandez said, adding:

"Let me give you an example. If a parish priest receives jueteng money from the mayor, how can he preach against graft and corruption [which could involve that mayor]? You become beholden [to the mayor]. You lose your moral authority.

"To me, jueteng money and money from Pacgor are the same.

"It's very simple. We should do what we preach. We preach against gambling, we should not receive money from gambling."

According to Enriquez, priests should not even be soliciting money because their job is to teach the Gospel, not to receive money.

Should there be a need to solicit funds, the job should fall on each parish's pastoral and economic council, he said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Luige A. del Puerto in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

'Hyatt 10': We're ...

From page A1

tell the truth to trigger popular outrage enough to spark another People Power revolt.

"We need to do it in the proper forum to achieve the desired effect," said Soliman, who used to belong to Ms Arroyo's inner circle. "We want it to reach a resolution of the current crisis."

Parayno urged the public to be more vigilant and critical in observing political developments as they unfolded and how these pointed to the fact that there must be changes soon.

"The Filipino people should be the heroes [in this situation]," he said.

As a lawyer and a law enforcer, Parayno said he was aware that mere telling the truth about the presidency would not topple Ms Arroyo.

"It's not truth alone but what we can prove," he said—indicating he would only talk about things that he could prove.

Feeling the heat

The Hyatt 10 refers to the 10 former Cabinet officials who quit their posts on July 8 and urged Ms Arroyo to do the same. The group derived its name from the place—Hyatt Hotel—where they announced their mass resignations.

The group that talked with the INQUIRER also included former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad, ex-Presidential Adviser on Peace Process Teresita "Ging" Deles and ex-chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission Imelda "Mely" Nicolas. Former Customs Commissioner Bert Lina also came but stayed briefly.

The group had sought the meeting with the INQUIRER to clarify its position after the newspaper, in an editorial last Wednesday, chided them for bits and pieces of disclosures "instead of exploding a dynamite." They were not willing to take more risks by providing more inside information about what they knew, the editorial said.

The other members of the Hyatt 10, but who were not at the small Thursday night gathering, were former Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, former Trade and Industry Secretary Juan Santos, former Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa and former Budget and Management Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Nicolas said Purisima was not with them because he was preparing for his wedding in October.

"We give him all his evenings," she said.

According to Arroyo's former officials, they will reveal all, if possible, before an impeachment court, under oath and under full media coverage.

Nicolas said the group could tell the truth about the Arroyo administration to the media. "But Malacañang could just cover it up, or deny us. It won't achieve anything," she said.

Instead of going to the media, Deles said the group had chosen to "telling the truth" before small forums, consisting mostly of members of nongovernment organizations and the civil society.

Both Deles and Soliman were members of the civil society and at the forefront of the movement that deposed Joseph Estrada in January 2001.

"There should be responsible sharing of information," said Soliman.

She said the information her group had could boost the case against Ms Arroyo if proimpeachment lawmakers in the Lower House obtained the 79 signatures needed to send the case to the Senate for trial.

"We'd only share the information that we have if we know that it will contribute to the resolution [of the case]," Soliman said.

Soliman said the group did not want their testimony to go the way of the testimony of other people who had informed against the administration, which flatly denied their allegations.

"We don't mind waiting for the proper forum," said Deles. "We're in this for the long haul."

Arroyo allies had denounced the Hyatt 10 as "traitors and conspirators."

Soliman said the group also became the target of nasty text messages.

Admin lawmakers want VAT on power deferred

From page A1

imposition of the expanded VAT on the energy sector.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda yesterday filed a joint resolution asking Congress to suspend the implementation of a provision in the VAT law which removes the exemption enjoyed by the oil and power sectors, amid rising crude prices.

"VAT is like a radical surgery. Instead of curing the patient, it will end up killing it amid the rising global oil prices," said Salceda, an economic adviser to the President.

Exceptions

The resolution proposes that the provisions of RA 9337, or the VAT Reform Law, be made to take effect immediately, except for Section 17 which imposes a uniform VAT on petroleum products and electricity.

At the Senate, administration Sen. Miriam Santiago, who chairs the energy committee, said she would call a hearing next week on Senate Bill No. 2080, authored by Sen. Manuel Roxas, seeking to exempt power generation, transmission, distribution and supply from VAT coverage.

"The most critical impact of the Supreme Court decision is to allow a drastic rise in the prices of electricity and petroleum. If the Senate and the House act with a sense of urgency, we can exempt electricity from the tax, thus keeping the price at more or less present levels," Santiago said.

The expanded VAT law, the centerpiece of the administration's fiscal reform program, was challenged by the opposition and suspended by the Supreme Court on July 1.

With the high court ruling the other day that the expanded tax was constitutional, the administration won an important victory but faces a more difficult problem as soaring oil prices are putting pressure on inflation and hurting consumers.

This problem could worsen if a tax exemption on oil products is done away with, as provided for under the expanded VAT law.

Minimal effect on revenues

Roxas said he would file the joint resolution with Salceda next week, noting that the effect on government revenues of exempting fuel and power would be minimal this year as the VAT law would likely be implemented for the three months remaining of 2005.

Salceda estimated the revenue loss from the deferral of VAT implementation on energy at P6.6 billion this year, plus P15 billion next year "that could be easily offset by improved collection efficiency and other less contractionary revenue measures."

VAT was projected to raise an incremental revenue of P77.5 billion per year, of which P19.9 billion would have come from oil and electricity.

GMA grateful

The President welcomed the Supreme Court decision saying that "economic reforms are on track, even ahead of track."

"We are very grateful," she said.

Her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, conceded that the approval of the VAT law would bring greater inflation before resulting in economic growth. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Germelina A. Lacorte and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

For first time, Cory, Susan lead united ...

From page A1

Some of the loudest cheers went to Novaliches Diocese Bishop Antonio Tobias.

In a fiery homily, Tobias said the way to peace was justice and the way to justice was truth.

"Madam President, in the name of Christ, tell your people the truth," Tobias said.

He also told politicians: "What is the use of staying in power if the people do not love you."

"I hope that they [the anti-impeachment congressmen] will be enlightened that the purpose of this is for us to have a fair hearing of the accusations [against Ms Arroyo]," Roces, widow of late opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., told reporters in Filipino.

Same goal

Caloocan Bishop Deo Yniguez said: "The mix of people who are here is very encouraging."

"What we are seeing is a broad united front composed of groups sharing the same goal," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said.

The gathering was held inside the La Salle Green Hills cafeteria, which was converted into a chapel for the interfaith prayer meeting.

The event brought together in one hall Poe supporters and groups which had previously distanced themselves from those closely identified with jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

During her five-minute speech, Aquino said some prayers really took a long time to be heard.

Prayers for truth

She said this was the first time she and Roces were being seen in public together.

"But we had private meetings before," she said.

Arriving minutes before Roces, the former President waited for Poe's widow in a room at the upper floor of the cafeteria before they both entered the hall.

She said she attended the gathering to pray for the truth.

Odd mix

Seated on the right side of Aquino was defeated presidential candidate and evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva. On her left side was Roces.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who served under Ms Arroyo, sat between party-list congressmen who were openly not in good terms.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales sat on Guingona's right while Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño were on his left side.

Almost 30 proimpeachment congressmen attended, including House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, Rep. Ronnie Zamora and Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano.

Administration congressmen who signed the impeachment complaint, like Rep. Dudut Jaworski, Rep. Ace Barbers and Rep. Cynthia Villar, also came.

'Not for sale'

They wore pins, distributed at the hall, which said: "Not For Sale" and "Is There No One Else?"

At the start of her speech, Aquino called the proimpeachment congressmen in front of the stage. The congressmen obliged and some clenched fists.

Some members of the so-called "Hyatt 10," key administration officials who turned their backs on Ms Arroyo last month, quit en masse and called on her to resign, were also present.

Earlier, the gathering cheered when Aquino introduced Roces. They gave a louder ovation for the Hyatt 10 members and the pro-impeachment legislators.

Plea to God

Former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman sat beside Roces while former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, former National Anti-Poverty Commission chair Imelda Nicolas and former peace process presidential adviser Ding Deles were seated in different areas.

The meeting was organized by the newly established Black and White Movement and De La Salle Brothers Association spokesperson Br. Armin Luistro, FSC.

"Our plea to God is for our people to know the simple truth, without the complications of legalese language, without the makeovers of spin doctors, without the manipulation of political strategists and without the maneuvers of procedural technicalities," Luistro.

Other VIPs

Tobias urged the crowd—teeming with La Salle students and teachers as well as opposition figures like United Opposition president and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, San Juan Mayor and Estrada's son JV Ejercito, former Sen. Francisco Tatad—to unite.

"Let us put our act together and forget our ambitions, personal interests and even political survival," Tobias said.

Tobias ended the Mass by saying *"Huwag matakot"* (Don't be afraid!)."

3 more solons endorse impeach complaint

From page A1

day, saying the justice committee had not given "due course" to the amended complaint, anyway.

On paper, there are only 48 endorsers.

No-shows

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, an administration stalwart, said some of those who signed the amended complaint would not attend the critical vote at the House plenary session on Monday.

Pichay said that four or five signatories were expected not to show up, and that a similar number were also expected to withdraw their signatures.

"There are those who have realized that the President is not impeachable. This will become more apparent as the day of reckoning approaches," he said.

"Are they sure that all [the signatories] will attend? Poor opposition [members]. They're pinning their hopes on nothing. You're absent if you're abroad or out of town," he added.

Pichay said the proimpeachment camp should not only present on Monday the votes it had gathered but also produce those legislators who had signed the complaint: "They need to present the 79 actual voters in plenary. The signatures they gathered during the filing are different. They need 79 votes to overturn the committee report."

He also said Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar's decision to sign the complaint did not lead other undecided members of the Nacionalista Party to follow her example.

Siding with winners

"The NP's initial stand was for a conscience vote. Of course, those who have already made a commitment [to the President] cannot withdraw it," he said.

San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora admitted that the proimpeachment team was having a hard time convincing other lawmakers to sign the amended impeachment complaint.

The lead impeachment prosecutor said the undecided lawmakers wanted to make sure that their signatures would not be wasted, and were also concerned about their political future.

"They have a lot of questions like, if we had the numbers. Of course, they also want to side with the winners," he said.

Gil joins 'Hello Garci' on NBI's wanted list

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE ONE-TIME presidential hopeful is now a fugitive?

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has launched a manhunt for former presidential candidate Eddie Gil after the Quezon City Regional Trial Court issued a warrant for his arrest last Aug. 18.

NBI Interpol Division chief Ricardo Diaz said they were now searching for Gil, who was found guilty of falsifying public documents to claim a piece of land on Quezon Avenue.

"The complainant in the case requested us to find Gil following reports that he has already gone abroad," Diaz said in an interview with reporters.

He added that they would provide Interpol's 182 member-countries with Gil's photo and artist's sketch showing him "without his signature wig."

"We need to show him partly bald and completely hairless to alert other countries on how he would look like," Diaz said.

He said they would request for the extradition of Gil in countries where the Philippines had a treaty, and in countries without a treaty—for the immediate deportation of the fugitive.

"Nothing hampers us from requesting for his deportation because he would be considered an undesirable alien," Diaz said.

Gil was meted a maximum sentence of four years and a day in prison. He was also fined P205,000 and ordered to pay P13 million in civil damages to plaintiff JWS Development Corp.

NBI to provide Interpol with Gil's photo and artist's sketch showing him "without his signature wig."

The complainant had accused Gil of forging a document from the Quezon City Register of Deeds to make it appear that a 1,798.5-sq. m. lot on Quezon Avenue belonged to him.

After the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's decision, a warrant of arrest was issued against Gil.

The Commission on Elections had declared Gil a nuisance candidate months before the 2004 presidential polls, saying that "he was not a stranger to the games of charlatans and impostors."

Gil was also previously disqualified while running for the Senate in 2001. He was later allowed to run but lost, receiving the lowest number of votes among the senatorial candidates.

Foreign execs want advance notice on holidays to avoid confusion

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN businessmen have renewed their call for the government to announce holidays at least six months in advance to avoid disruptions in their business operations.

In a statement, the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines urged the government to end its practice of declaring holidays at the last minute.

"A good business environment requires predictability. The nation's holiday schedule should be fixed far in advance and followed without capricious change," it said.

The JFCP said the government should also authorize companies to transfer the holiday to another day, such as during Holy Week or Christmas season, and thus give their workers longer breaks.

The organization issued its statement following Malacañang's recent declaration of Aug. 29, a Monday, as a holiday in accordance with a proclamation signed on Aug. 27, a Saturday. The announcement was released only on Sunday, Aug. 28.

The late declaration and announcement resulted in confusion among workers and employers, especially since Malacañang first said that Sunday was a holiday for everybody and then changed it to Monday, but only for government workers and students.

JFCP is composed of American, Australian-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Korean and Japanese chambers of commerce and industry as well as the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies.

The organization, as well as many local employers' groups, have complained about the country's too many official holidays as well as the special ones that the government declares from time to time in pursuit of its "holiday economics" policy.

It cited three "disruptive last-minute holidays" in 2005 such as Monday, July 25, which was declared on Friday, July 22; Monday, June 13 which was declared on Thursday, June 9; and Monday, May 2 which was declared on Friday, April 29.

The group proposed that at the start of the year or preferably at least six months prior, a proclamation on holidays for the coming year be declared to allow firms to adjust their operations.

"We believe that with more proactive planning and careful consideration of the unique requirements of business and industry operations, a win-win solution can be achieved. Business and government can work toward the common goal of attracting and expanding investments in the Philippines and creating more jobs for the Filipino people," the group added.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israel reaps dividends of Gaza pullout from Pakistan, Egypt

JERUSALEM—Israel was Thursday reaping the diplomatic dividends within the Muslim world of its pullout from the Gaza Strip, forging unprecedented contacts with Pakistan and deepening ties with Egypt and Jordan.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom's talks in Turkey with his Pakistani counterpart, Khurshid Kasuri, the first public meeting at such a high level, prompted Palestinian expressions of "concern."

But Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said the Islamic republic would not formally recognize the Jewish state until the creation of a Palestinian state.

Speaking from Istanbul, Shalom said "I have said to the representatives of numerous Arab and Islamic states that our withdrawal from Gaza would be the right time for the establishment of diplomatic relations.

"This meeting is extremely significant and we hope that it will be the prelude to relations at the same level we have with (Israel's close ally) India.

"We hope that there will soon be visits by delegations from my ministry to Pakistan which will be swiftly followed by the normalization of relations between our two countries."

To date Israel has full, if often strained diplomatic relations with only three Arab states—Egypt, Jordan and Mauritania—and a handful of Muslim majority states including Turkey.

Once one of three states to recognize the former fundamentalist Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Pakistan has since become a key ally of the US "war against terror" under Musharraf's leadership.

Kasuri linked the decision to open talks to the pullout of settlers from Gaza which was completed 10 days ago, the first time Israel has evacuated its citizens from parts of the occupied Palestinian territories.

"Pakistan gives great importance to the developments in Israel and the Gaza Strip," said Kasuri.

"Pakistan has therefore decided to engage with Israel," he added, without elaborating. *AFP*

MASKED women of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades participate in a rally to celebrate the Israeli pullout of Gaza settlements and part of the West Bank in Gaza City, Sept. 1. AP

S. Koreans claim tech may replace silicon chips

SEOUL—A team of South Korean scientists said Friday that they had developed a new technology that could open the way to make new devices that could replace current silicon-based semiconductors.

The team led by Kim Hyun-tak of the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) said they had successfully manufactured what is known as a "Mott Insulator."

Named after Sir Nevill Mott, a British scientist who won the 1977 Nobel Physics Prize, Mott insulators, although metal-based, do not normally conduct electrical charges.

Subjected to a high-voltage shock, however, Mott insulators can conduct electricity at relatively low temperatures of 67 degrees Celcius.

"Silicon generates heat, making it impossible to place ultra-thin circuits on chips but Mott metals do not generate heat while carrying out the same job of semiconductors," ETRI president Lim Joo-hwan said.

"Semiconductors of the 20th century will eventually give way to Mott insulators," Kim Hyun-tak told journalists.

He said Mott insulators could open a new market worth $100 billion per year globally, including displays and new devices that would not use silicon-based semiconductors.

By making use of such Mott metal insulators, chips with five-nanometer circuits would be possible, he said. Existing semiconductor chips can theoretically carry 40-nanometer circuits but leading edge products on the market currently run at around 90-nanometers. One nanometer is one billionth of a meter.

Samsung Electronics, the worlds top memory chipmaker, stunned the world last year by unveiling the most advanced flash memory chips based on 60-nanometer circuits.

Experts said this level likely represents the technical limit for miniaturizing circuits with silicon-based semiconductor chips. *AFP*

Al-Qaida vows new attacks days before 9/11 anniversary

DUBAI—Al-Qaida second in command Ayman al-Zawahiri emerged days before the anniversary of Sept. 11 to threaten more anti-Western attacks like the July strikes on Britain, in a videotape aired by Al-Jazeera which also showed one of the London bombers.

"The lands and interests of the countries which took part in the aggression against Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan are targets for us," Zawahiri warned in the tape broadcast by the Qatar-based news channel late Thursday.

Zawahiri hailed the July 7 "conquest" in London as similar to those in Madrid last year and the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, appearing to take responsibility for the rush-hour bombings on underground trains and a bus which killed 52 people.

"Like its glorious precedents in New York, Washington and Madrid, the blessed conquest (in Britain) took the battle to the enemy's land, after ... his (enemy's) armies occupied our lands in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine," he said.

"We will respond in kind to all those who took part in the aggression on Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine," said Zawahiri, shown with an automatic rifle at his side.

"Just as they made rivers of blood flow in our countries, we will make volcanos of anger erupt in their countries," Osama bin Laden's right-hand man said.

Zawahiri's threats came 10 days before the fourth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks claimed by his terror network.

In a posthumous message, one of the four London suicide bombers said he was driven to his actions in response to the "atrocities" committed against Muslims.

Speaking in English with a northern accent, the turbaned man said by the channel to be Mohammad Sidique Khan said: "I and thousands like me have forsaken everything for what we believe in. Our driving motivation does not come from tangible commodities that this world has to offer. Our religion is Islam."

The man said he was inspired by Bin Laden, Zawahiri and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaida's frontman in Iraq whose group has taken credit for many of the deadliest attacks in the country in the past two years. *AFP*

TAGGED FOR 'KARO KARI'
Pakistani girl Lakhmira, 15, who fears she could be a victim of honor killing, speaks at her hiding place near Daharki, 550 km from Karachi, Aug. 24. Married just four months ago, this skinny girl will be lucky if she doesn't end up in one of the nameless graves in burial grounds reserved for "karo kari" victims in the tribal badlands of Pakistan's southern Sindh. REUTERS

Saudis told Britain, US in December about terror threat against London

MONTHS before the deadly July 7 suicide bombings in London, Saudi Arabia told the British and US governments that it had arrested a young Saudi man who confessed to raising money in the Gulf region for a terrorist attack in crowded areas of the British capital this summer, officials said.

The Saudis obtained information that the attack would involve explosives and a Syrian contact for financing, and that at least some of the four attackers would be British citizens, according to officials in several countries with direct access to the information.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the information remains classified, cautioned that the current investigation has not connected any players from the July attacks to the original Saudi warning and that the information last December did not provide attackers' names, a date, specific location or time of attack.

But they said the information gleaned from the suspect after he was captured returning to the kingdom was detailed enough to heighten British concerns about the possibility of an attack around July in crowded sections of London, including in nightclubs, one US official said. It added to numerous other pieces of intelligence flowing into Western governments that pointed to such threats, the officials told The Associated Press.

The British government said it does not comment on specific intelligence, but "takes all reports of alleged or possible terrorist threats or activity extremely seriously, and all reports are thoroughly investigated."

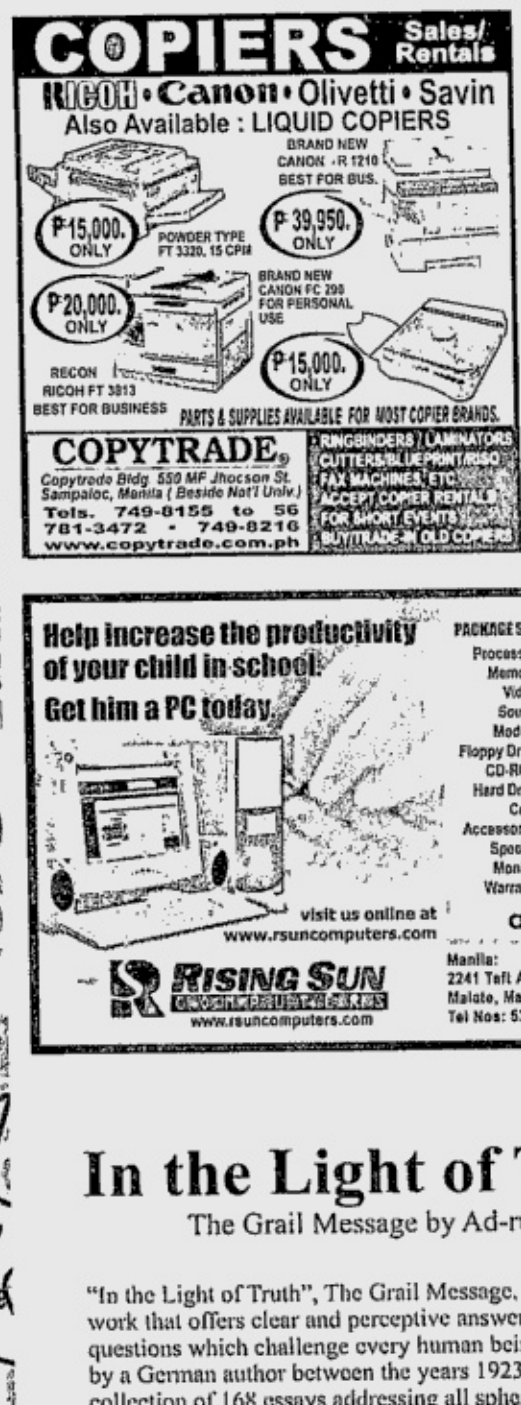
The British government also said its relationship with Saudi intelligence agencies is growing. "The UK and Saudi Arabia continue to strengthen their already excellent counterterrorism bilateral cooperation. But for obvious security reasons, we do not go into any detail," the British Embassy in Washington said in a statement to AP.

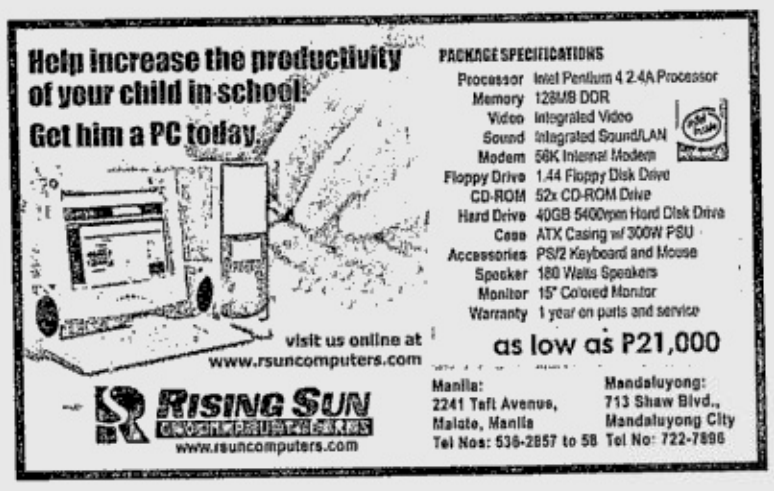
On July 7, four suicide bombers killed 52 people and wounded hundreds in an attack on London's transit network. It was the first reported suicide bombing in Western Europe. Two weeks later, a similar attack in London failed when explosives carried by the attackers didn't go off.

Both attacks are believed to have involved young British Muslim men who were carrying bulky bags or backpacks laden with powerful, homemade explosives. Their explosive, HMDT, can be made using ordinary ingredients such as hydrogen peroxide (hair bleach), citric acid (a common food preservative) and heat tablets (sometimes used by the military for cooking).

Three of the four alleged July 7 bombers were of Pakistani descent. No one is in custody in the July 7 attack, but all of the main suspects in the July 21 plot have been charged.

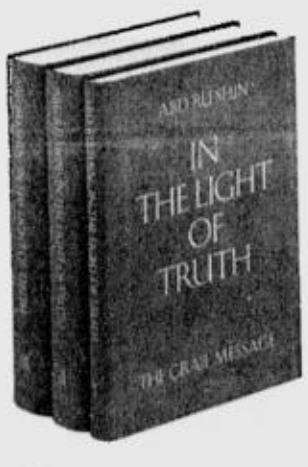
After the attacks, Prince Turki al-Faisal, the Saudi ambassador in London who soon is moving to a similar job in Washington, said his government had warned the British government months earlier that it had obtained information in Saudi Arabia about a possible attack in London. *AP*





In the Light of Truth

The Grail Message by Ad-ru-shin



"In the Light of Truth", The Grail Message, is a classic work that offers clear and perceptive answers to questions which challenge every human being. Written by a German author between the years 1923-1938, it is a collection of 168 essays addressing all spheres of life ranging from God and the Universe to the Laws of Creation. It answers eternal questions such as:

What does it mean to be human?
What is the purpose of life on Earth
What happens to "me" when I die?

In this context, the author writes "I wish to fill the gaps which so far have remained unanswered in the souls of men as burning questions, and which never leave any serious thinker in peace."

To perceive the values within the simplicity and unswerving logic of the Grail Message, no specific type of education is required. Age, sex, race and religious background present no barriers, unless they are self-imposed. However, reading the Grail Message requires an open mind and a seeking spirit.

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Lebanon charges 4 generals in Hariri murder

BROUMMANA, Lebanon — Lebanon charged four pro-Syrian generals with murder on Thursday over the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, judicial sources said.

They said Lebanon's Public Prosecutor Saeed Meerza also charged the four, detained on Tuesday on the recommendation of chief UN investigator Detlev Mehlis, with attempted murder and carrying out a terrorist act. Hariri and 20 others were killed in a massive bombing in Beirut on Feb. 14.

Mehlis welcomed the move, a UN official in Beirut said, having "strongly recommended" Lebanese authorities formally arrest the generals on suspicion they were involved in planning the attack.

The decision came hours after Mehlis, leading an inquiry ordered by the UN Security Council, said he believed more people were involved in the bombing. None of the suspects so far were Syrians, he said.

Many Lebanese blame Syria, which had controlled Lebanon since the civil war, for the killing, which plunged the country into months of turmoil.

"I think we have advanced quite a bit. We have made progress. We are not recommending people to be arrested on rumor," Mehlis told a news conference in a mountain village.

"We suggested to the general prosecutor the permanent arrest of four out of five suspects," he said. "These five suspects we have arrested are in our assessment only part of the picture ... We think more people are involved."

Lebanese police detained Maj. Gen. Jamil al-Sayyed, former head of General Security, Maj. Gen. Ali Hajj, ex-chief of police, and Brig. Gen. Raymond Azar, former military intelligence chief, in dawn raids on Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Mustafa Hamdan, Lebanon's Republican Guard chief, handed himself over to the UN team the same day.

Hamdan, a close aide of pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud, was the only security chief to keep his job after parliamentary elections in June ushered in an anti-Syrian majority for the first time since the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

Lebanese magistrate Elias Eid will interrogate the generals on Friday and inspect the evidence before deciding whether to push ahead with legal proceedings.

The four are now in Lebanese custody, under heavy guard.

The UN team has questioned over 250 people in connection with the case, including at least five suspects—the four generals and an ex-lawmaker close to Syria who was later freed.

Nassir Qandil, a staunch ally of Damascus, was released in the early hours of Wednesday but remains a suspect.

Damascus ended its 29-year military presence in Lebanon in April amid world pressure and Lebanese street protests after the killing of Hariri and 20 others in Beirut.

Mehlis said he was confident Syria, which the United Nations has criticized for not cooperating fully with the probe, would eventually let him interview Syrian security officials.

"There were some problems, but I am optimistic that these problems can be resolved because ... without this cooperation we will not have the full picture," he said. "I am ready and willing to go to Syria but I did not do so, so far."

Despite the progress, Mehlis predicted he would not be able to conclude the investigation and report his findings to the UN Security Council by the mid-September deadline. *Reuters*

Newborns disappearing in Ukraine, says envoy

KIEV, Ukraine—A Council of Europe envoy dispatched to Ukraine to investigate allegations of baby trafficking said she found evidence that newborns had disappeared from hospitals, Ukraine's Kommersant newspaper reported Friday.

"I didn't know whether the rumors about missing children were true," Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, from the council's Parliamentary Assembly, was quoted as saying. "But it turns out it all corresponds to reality and children really have disappeared."

Vermot-Mangold spent four days in Ukraine investigating allegations that at least two newborn babies disappeared from a hospital in the eastern city of Kharkiv in 2002 and were never seen again.

She told the newspaper that she couldn't say how many babies might have disappeared. But Vermot-Mangold emphasized that even if there were only one case, it required investigation by the Prosecutor General's Office.

Vermot-Mangold, who ended her four-day investigation into the case on Thursday, could not immediately be reached to comment on the report.

Ukrainian activists believe the newborns might have been sold to medical institutes who harvested their organs, and say the number of newborns who disappeared from the hospital between 2001-2003 could be in the hundreds. *AP*

'BRACERO' REUTERS

A historic photograph of "bracero" workers as they cultivate a field in Salinas, California, in 1956. They were among the roughly five million Mexicans who toiled in US farm fields and on railroad lines during the 22-year temporary worker project dubbed the "bracero" program. This program became notorious for its abuses of Mexican workers, who were often not paid as promised, slept in cramped huts and left unprotected from chemicals sprayed on the fields.

Britain urges ban on terror incitement

UNITED NATIONS—Britain circulated a UN Security Council resolution on Thursday that would urge all nations to ban incitement of terrorist acts in hopes the measure would be approved during the upcoming UN world summit.

The draft follows Britain's controversial domestic crackdown on incitement, announced by Prime Minister Tony Blair on Aug. 5, in response to bombings that killed 52 people in London in July.

Adoption is aimed at a Security Council meeting to be scheduled on Sept. 14, the first day of the three-day summit, council envoys said. The session will be attended by world leaders with seats on the 15-member council, including Presidents Jacques Chirac of France, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil.

US officials said it was not certain if President George W. Bush would attend the council meeting but several council envoys were fairly confident he would.

Richard Grenell, spokesperson for the US mission to the United Nations, said Washington supported the draft.

"We obviously think finding ways to stop the incitement of terrorism is a great idea and we are supportive of the resolution," Grenell told Reuters.

Chairing the meeting would be President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, whose country holds the rotating council presidency for September.

The draft calls on nations to "prohibit by law the incitement of a terrorist act or acts through the adoption of such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under international law."

It says all countries should take appropriate measures to counter "violent extremist ideologies, including steps to prevent the subversion of educational, cultural, and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters."

The measure also says nations should deny refuge to people with "serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of such conduct" and see they are brought to justice. *Reuters*

Saddam trial to begin after Oct. 15 vote

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Iraqi authorities plan to put Saddam Hussein on trial within five days after the Oct. 15 referendum on the new constitution, an official close to the proceedings said Thursday.

"Saddam's trial will start right after the October referendum between Oct. 16 and at the latest Oct. 20," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to make the official announcement.

The official spoke after government spokesperson Laith Kubba announced that Iraq had carried out its first executions since Saddam was ousted in 2003. Three men were hanged at 10 a.m. in a Baghdad prison for murdering three policemen.

US officials scrapped the death penalty in 2003 but Iraqi authorities reinstated it after the transfer of sovereignty so they would have the option of executing Saddam if he is convicted of crimes committed during his regime.

European Union countries have distanced themselves from legal proceedings against Saddam, refusing to provide forensic and other assistance, because of the prospect that Saddam may be executed.

Iraqi authorities plan a series of trials for specific alleged offenses rather than lumping them altogether. The first trial will focus on the alleged massacre of hundreds of Shiites in Dujail in 1982 following a failed assassination attempt. *AP*

VIETNAM WARRIOR REUTERS

A Vietnamese female reservist holds a weapon during National Day parade in Hanoi Sept. 2. The parade was to mark the 60th anniversary of the country's independence from French colonial rule.

Gitmo detainees stage hunger strike

WASHINGTON—Scores of detainees are on hunger strike at the Guantanamo US "war on terror" detention camp, lawyers for the detainees and US military authorities said Thursday.

Lawyers for the inmates said at least 210 men had been on hunger strike for the last three weeks. However, officials at Guantanamo said there were 76, but refused to say when the hunger strike started.

"Since January 2002, the (Defense Department) has denied prisoners access to the courts or legal counsel in an effort to avoid justifying the basis for the detentions. This policy has driven detainees to strike until they die or are afforded a fair hearing and humane treatment," said attorney Gitanjali Gutierrez, of the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, which represents some of the prisoners.

A spokesperson for Joint Task Force at Guantanamo said, "They're 76. The numbers change every day." She did not say when the strike began.

"They are treated to the best of our ability."

There are about 505 detainees at the detention camp on the US naval base in Cuba.

On July 21, 52 prisoners launched a hunger strike at Guantanamo, apparently in protest at their detention, refusing nine consecutive meals. *AFP*

UN asks China to come clean on executions

BEIJING—The UN's top human rights official on Friday called on China to release details about its use of capital punishment, warning that those executed might be victims of discrimination as she ended a five-day visit to Beijing.

High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour expressed concern about the possible use of the death penalty against ethnic minorities and the mentally ill, saying data from other countries showed they often were executed in disproportionately large numbers.

Arbour also said she expressed her concern over China's execution of people for offenses "that do not meet the international standard of 'most serious crimes.'"

China executes thousands of prisoners every year for crimes ranging from murder to nonviolent offenses such as tax evasion.

"We know from worldwide experience that very often when you go beyond the numbers you uncover patterns of sometimes indirect discrimination ... (and) disproportionate application of the harshest penalties, including often the death penalties, on minority groups, people suffering from mental illness," Arbour told a news conference.

Arbour met this week with the president of China's supreme court, Cabinet ministers and several activist groups and signed an agreement to help China enact legal reforms that would pave the way for its ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

At the start of her visit, she also raised about 10 individual human rights cases of particular concern to the United Nations, including cases of detained journalists, labor activists, two Tibetans, a member of China's Muslim Uighur minority group and an ethnic Mongolian. *AP*

ARBOUR REUTERS

DVD format war looms as Blu-ray backers plan launch

By Lucas van Grinsven

BERLIN—Chances looked slim that consumers will be spared a DVD format war, as the backers of one standard said on Friday there was no common ground for a unified format and it was on track for a market launch within a year.

"If we want a unified standard, it has to be better than the sum of the parts. We would like to find something that's better in the other standard than ours, but we haven't found it," said Frank Simonis, a spokesperson for backers of the Blu-ray standard.

Speaking on the sidelines of the IFA consumer electronics trade fair, Simonis said the Blu-ray association was ready to lay down the specifications of the higher-capacity DVD format in the spring of 2006.

The rival HD DVD camp has recently had to push back its launch into the New Year. "We're no longer lagging behind," said Simonis, who is also strategic marketing director at the optical storage unit of Philips Electronics.

At stake is the multibillion-dollar market for DVD players, PC drivers and optical disks. Blu-ray promises higher capacity DVD disks (up to 50 Gigabytes) that can store high definition films and better interactivity and security.

The HD DVD camp, on the other hand, claims it has a cheaper technology compatible with current DVD and CD players.

Blu-ray is backed by the majority of electronics makers, including Sony, Matsushita, Samsung, Philips, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, Apple and Hitachi.

The HD-DVD camp consists of Toshiba, NEC Corp. and Sanyo Electric as main hardware vendors.

The battle between the two camps has become intense after a failed attempt this spring by several of the main Japanese electronics companies to bring together the two standards.

The support of the Hollywood studios and television producers, crucial partners who will have to print pre-recorded disks with movies and TV series, has been more evenly spread and many have held their options open.

However, studio owner 20th Century Fox said at IFA it had chosen Blu-ray after its backers improved security features that will prevent DVD piracy hurting the industry.

"We talked to both formats and asked them: 'What are you going to do about content protection?' We asked them to step up their content protection in a serious way, and the members of Blu-ray association won," said Andy Setos, president of engineering at the studio which is owned by News Corp.

He also said that production costs of Blu-ray are "competitive" and that the format is interoperable with existing DVDs and CDs formats.

Hollywood is suffering from rampant piracy, because the initial DVD standard that was put together exactly 10 years ago had been rushed to market and lacked features to prevent unauthorized copying and playback.

"DVD is not good. It isn't secure, the capacity is too low, the bit rate is too low," Simonis said

In China in particular, many films are reproduced on DVDs illegally and sold at a dollar apiece on street corners. "We sell 20,000 DVDs a year in China, and they're priced at just $4.99. Just to prove a point," Setos said. *Reuters*

Shoot-to-kill for New Orleans looters

From page A1

enced, battle tested and under my orders to restore order in the streets," Blanco said.

"They have M-16s and they are locked and loaded.

"These troops know how to shoot and kill and they are more than willing to do so if necessary and I expect they will," she said.

Gunbattles, rapes

Four days after the killer storm slammed into the US Gulf Coast, New Orleans was still plagued by gun battles and rapes, with gangs of looters and carjackers roving the streets and bodies just left lying by the roadside.

Residents reported survivors dropping dead in shelters or gunned down outside the New Orleans convention center. Hospitals were evacuated after power ran out and helicopters ferrying patients and babies drew gunfire.

Frightened Japanese

Around 200 frightened Japanese, European and American tourists, who had been thrown out of their hotel on Thursday morning, told how police fired over their heads as they attempted to get to buses to take them to safety.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin issued an urgent plea for help for up to 20,000 refugees stuck in the convention center, which he said was "unsanitary and unsafe" and running out of supplies.

'Desperate SOS'

"This is a desperate SOS," Nagin said in a statement released through CNN television.

Elderly people in wheelchairs tried to make their way through flooded streets in search of help, and entire families were trapped on elevated highways without water in sweltering heat.

"We want help," people chanted at the convention center, where thousands of evacuees were told to seek shelter, only to find woefully inadequate supplies of food or water.

Several corpses lay in nearby streets. The body of one elderly woman was abandoned in her wheelchair, covered with just a blanket.

Blanco said up to 300,000 survivors may still be stuck in disaster areas in the state and at least 40,000 uniformed troops were needed for New Orleans alone.

Although no precise death toll was available, Blanco and Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu said several thousand people were now believed to have been killed by Katrina.

Outside the New Orleans Superdome, thousands who had taken shelter in the stadium before the hurricane hit, were still trapped, waiting to board buses shuttling them to a new refuge in Houston, Texas.

IS THIS HISTORIC Jazz City? It now closely resembles a third world trouble spot with armed looters galore like this one making off with goodies from several downtown businesses in New Orleans. (AP)

AP/THE MISSISSIPPI PRESS

THE SAME PROBLEM plagues Mississippi also hard hit by Katrina. In Pascagoula, residents have taken security into their own hands.

'Utter hell'

A National Guardsman was shot outside the Superdome and a shot was also fired at a Chinook helicopter taking part in the operation to move refugees out, officials said.

Amid reports that two children had been raped at the stadium, many people were outraged after spending four days without proper food, water and sanitation and enduring nights of lawless blackout.

"The last few days were utter hell. We were treated like animals," said Baron Duncan, 42.

The lawlessness distracted from frantic efforts to evacuate the city, where Nagin took hundreds of exhausted police off search and rescue duties to fight the looting gangs.

The US Senate voted unanimously to authorize $10.5 billion in special funding for hurricane victims, and the House of Representatives was expected to approve the measure on Friday.

National disgrace

But anger over the government response to the catastrophe remained vocal and widespread.

"This is a national disgrace," said Terry Ebbert, head of New Orleans' emergency operations.

Ebert said the Federal Emergency Management Agency had been in the city for three days "yet there is no command and control. We can send massive amounts of aid to tsunami victims, but we can't bail out the city of New Orleans."

Thomas Jessie, a 31-year-old roofer, vented his fear and anger after spending a night in the squalor of the convention center with no National Guard or Red Cross workers in sight.

"We got dead bodies sitting next to us for days. I feel like I am going to die. People are going to kill you for water," Jessie told Agence France-Presse.

Bush called for public forbearance as relief efforts gathered pace.

"We all know this is an agonizing time for the people of the Gulf Coast. I ask their continued patience as recovery operations unfold," the President said.

Where is Fats Domino?

Bush also appealed for Americans to conserve car fuel for the next few weeks. But US petrol stations saw panic buying and lengthening queues Thursday as a summer of pain for drivers battling sky-high oil prices intensified.

With much of the city flooded and without electricity, hospitals were struggling to evacuate critically ill patients who were dying off because there was not enough oxygen, insulin or intravenous fluids.

Rock 'n' roll legend Fats Domino was among the thousands still unaccounted for after he opted to ride the hurricane out at his New Orleans home.

Military reinforcements descended in helicopters and armored personnel carriers patrolled Canal Street, which borders New Orleans' legendary French Quarter district of bars and clubs.

People on rooftops

Search crews probed the rubble of collapsed buildings with tiny heat-sensing robots to find the living and cadaver dogs to find the dead. They were still pulling out survivors, and leaving behind many of the corpses trapped under debris.

Hundreds of stranded people waved flags on rooftops in a desperate bid to attract the attention of rescuers in New Orleans.

No electricity

Bodies still floated in the floodwater and a Knight Ridder newspaper journalist reported seeing three bodies around the Superdome Stadium where thousands remained trapped.

Officials, seeking to stave off criticism to one of the worst natural disasters in US history, said the floodwaters were to blame for the slow progress.

"Let me emphasize, from the very beginning, and as we speak, rescue operations have continued and are continuing in full force," said Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff.

Officials said more than two million customers in five states stretching from Louisiana to Florida were still without electric power. *AFP, Reuters*

GMA leads rites marking end of WWII

KIANGAN, Ifugao—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned against the "folly of war" as the Philippines marked the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The President, who was born less than two years after the war, thanked the United States forces who liberated the country from Japanese military occupation.

She also noted that both the US and Japan were now major partners of the Philippines, in her address at the site where top Japanese Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered.

"Sixty years ago, in this place, a great storm ended," she said in a speech to residents and diplomats in the mountain town of Kiangan.

"A war ended as the Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita walked into the lines of the Allied Forces," she said.

Yamashita, the Japanese military governor of the occupied Philippines, relocated his headquarters here in the southern edge of the Cordillera range as the US forces advanced.

He surrendered on Sept. 2, 1945 and was convicted and hanged as a war criminal south of Manila the following year.

"We recall that great day today, the end of the war, and we remember the participants in that war — our allies in the Asia Pacific, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and many others.

"And we recall that up to today, the US and other allies are our partners in upholding democracy and the rule of law and the security of our nation against terrorism," Ms Arroyo said.

She said Japan now "is our partner in our economic takeoff, our biggest source of official development assistance, and among our major partners in trade, investments, and tourism".

"The folly of war is very much like the scourge of our degenerated political system," the President said, taking a dig at opposition legislators who are trying to have her impeached for alleged election fraud that she denies.

"As we celebrate the end of war and the beginning of unity in the region, the Asia-Pacific and the world, I once again call for unity within our country. I make this call to friends and foes alike," she said. *AFP*

Pinoy troops were left out in Yamashita surrender

From page A1

the difficult fighting in the Cordilleras during World War II.

No Filipino official was present to witness the formal surrender ceremony which took place at the Camp John Hay residence of the United States High Commissioner, Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, who surrendered the United States Armed Forces in the Far East to the Japanese in 1942. The ceremony was also witnessed by British Gen. A. E. Percival who surrendered Singapore to Yamashita, called the "Tiger of Malaya."

Like surrender of Manila

It was reminiscent of the surrender of Manila on Aug. 13, 1898 when the Spanish authorities surrendered the city to the Americans, and the Filipinos under Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the country's first President, were not allowed to enter the city or participate in the surrender ceremony.

The Japanese may have insisted on it as the terms of the surrender. It may have been done for security reasons.

One of the last great engagements of the war in the Philippines was the campaign in Kiangan. The campaign actually involved several towns in the province.

After retreating into the Cordilleras, the Japanese had entrenched themselves there, forcing the Filipinos and Americans to engage in protracted fighting.

Yamashita had moved the headquarters of his Shobu group numbering 152,000 men into the central Cordillera after retreating from Baguio in May 1945.

Most soldiers Filipinos

Leading the Allied campaign was the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines Northern Luzon (Usafip NL) under Col. Russell Volkmann. This unit was incorporated into the US 6th Army under Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger on Jan. 9, 1945. It had five regiments, the 11th, 14th, 15th, 66th and the 121st.

Most of the men of the Usafip NL were Filipinos, young men in their 20s and early teens.

Unlike the relatively easy campaign in the lowlands of Ilocos and the Cagayan Valley, fighting in the mountains proved to be a dragged-out enterprise. The Cordillera campaign threatened to become bogged down not only because of a determined enemy but also because of the rains, the cold and poor visibility. As the mountainous terrain favored the defenders, the Japanese had to be rooted out of every hill and mountain where they had built tunnels and pillboxes. Artillery and air strikes employing napalm and high explosives were used to break the stalemate.

Battle of Bessang Pass

Following the bitterly contested battle of Bessang Pass, a corridor was opened into Yamashita's mountain stronghold in the western Cordillera. In the east, the Usafip NL fought its way from the Cagayan Valley. Following the liberation of the towns of Benguet, Bontoc and eastern Ifugao, Yamashita's forces found themselves encircled in and around the towns of Tinoc, Hungduan and Kiangan in the Loo-Asin valley.

Intense fighting continued to rage despite the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan. More than a thousand Japanese were killed in the battle of Mayoyao. The end of the battle, which began on July 25, coincided with the dropping of a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki on Aug. 9.

On Aug. 15, an order was given to all units by the US Command to cease fire. Toward the end of the month, the Japanese sent two officers and three enlisted men bearing a white flag to the nearest Usafip NL outpost. This outpost was a combat company of the 14th Infantry under 1st Lt. Jose Ablang and 2nd Lt. Macario Albarillo.

Filipinos' only role

The Japanese asked for information on the location of the nearest American unit. They said that Yamashita had been ordered to start negotiations for the surrender of forces under his command. The emissaries asked for the procedures for surrendering.

This contact with the Japanese officers was the only role that Filipinos would play in the surrender of Yamashita.

From that point on, further contact with the Japanese would be conducted by the Americans. Instructions for the surrender were air-dropped by American planes. It was also said that radio sets were dropped to allow the Japanese to communicate with the Americans.

On Sept. 2, a Sunday, Yamashita and his staff walked into Kiangan and were met by a group of Americans who took them to the Kiangan Central School. A second party consisting of Vice Admiral Denhichi Okochi and his naval staff arrived shortly after. Even in surrender, the two Japanese commanders could not reconcile their differences. Each refused to recognize the authority of the other.

Ordered to leave

The day before the surrender, all Filipino units, including the 14th Infantry, were ordered to leave for Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya, leaving only the Americans in Kiangan. Civilians were also ordered to stay away from Yamashita.

Yamashita and the other surrenderees were taken to Bagabag, then put on a C-47 and flown to Luna, La Union. From there, they were taken under heavy escort to Baguio where a formal surrender ceremony took place the next day.

Whatever they may have felt about being excluded, Filipinos heaved a sigh of relief that the war was finally over.

For defying party stand, 'Aksyon' expels Lagman

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE POLITICAL party founded by the late Raul Roco expelled Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman Thursday night for deviating from its official stand by supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo in the impeachment issue.

Lawyer Lorna Kapunan, Aksyon Demokratiko secretary general, said Lagman had been making public statements without the concurrence of party members and officials.

Lagman holds a pivotal role in the impeachment proceedings because he is a vice chair of the House justice committee.

The decision to expel him was made by the Aksyon executive committee in an emergency meeting in Ortigas, Pasig City.

Speaker Jose de Venecia immediately welcomed Lagman to the "ranks of the independents who are in coalition with Lakas."

He said Lagman was "one of the most principled social activists and political reformers in the country."

In a letter he sent yesterday to party chair Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, Lagman said: "Instead of retracting, flip-flopping or succumbing to party pressure, all of which I abhor, I am irrevocably resigning from Aksyon Demokratiko effectively upon your receipt of this letter.

"It is unfortunate for you to even suggest that I retract my anti-impeachment stance. This suggestion is to pressure me to toe the belated party line, if in fact, one was agreed upon in a duly called party assembly.

"It might even be a calibrated scheme to compel me to 'creep' my signature to the amended impeachment complaint. A threat to expel me without due process is even aggravating."

Duty to know

Kapunan said it was not true that Lagman did not know of Aksyon's stand.

"He did not know? It was his duty to know. If there is any denial of due process, it's he who did it. He did not consult the party before he came up with the so-called prejudicial questions that are now being blamed for the dismissal of the impeachment complaints," she said in an interview.

Kapunan pointed out that it was Roco who was the first among Ms Arroyo's 2004 presidential rivals to call on her to step down and pave the way for a "snap" election.

"Aksyon's official position has been clear from the start: Raul Roco was ahead of everybody else," she said, adding:

"That has been [its] position ever since. So a lot of members—youth, women—were asking, 'What happened to him (Lagman)? What happened to Raul Roco's position? Did the party change after his death?'"

Kapunan said the executive committee even called Lagman on Thursday: "And then we asked him, reminded him of the party position. 'Now you know the party position, will you change your mind?' He said no."

In Cebu City, Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez (Cebu, 4th district) is being asked to resign as member of the powerful Commission on Appointments (CA) for supporting the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, a member of the Lakas-CMD national directorate, said that despite Martinez's continued insistence that she was still a member of the ruling party, she effectively expelled herself from it when she sided with the opposition in the impeachment issue.

Aumentado, who also chairs the League of Governors, said Martinez should quit the CA because she was only appointed to the committee because of her being a Lakas member.

"In fact, if Martinez has a sense of *delicadeza*, she should voluntarily step down," he said in Cebuano.

With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Impeachment tug-of-war now a case of 'Laban-Bawi'

From page A1

sign the amended impeachment complaint—and if they had signed already, to withdraw their signatures—militant groups are keeping an eye on congressmen who would be shouting "Bawi!" in the next three days.

Two congressmen, Association of Volunteer Educators' party-list Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay and Nueva Viscaya Rep. Rodolfo Agbayani, recently withdrew their signatures from the amended complaint, hurling an unexpected blow to the opposition's efforts to gather the 79 signatures required to transmit the complaint to the Senate.

"It would be good to investigate these two congressmen. Why did they suddenly change their minds? How much was at stake? They're playing 'Laban, Laban, Bawi, Bawi!' in Congress," Kilusan ng Magbubukid information officer Carl Anthony Ala said in a press briefing yesterday.

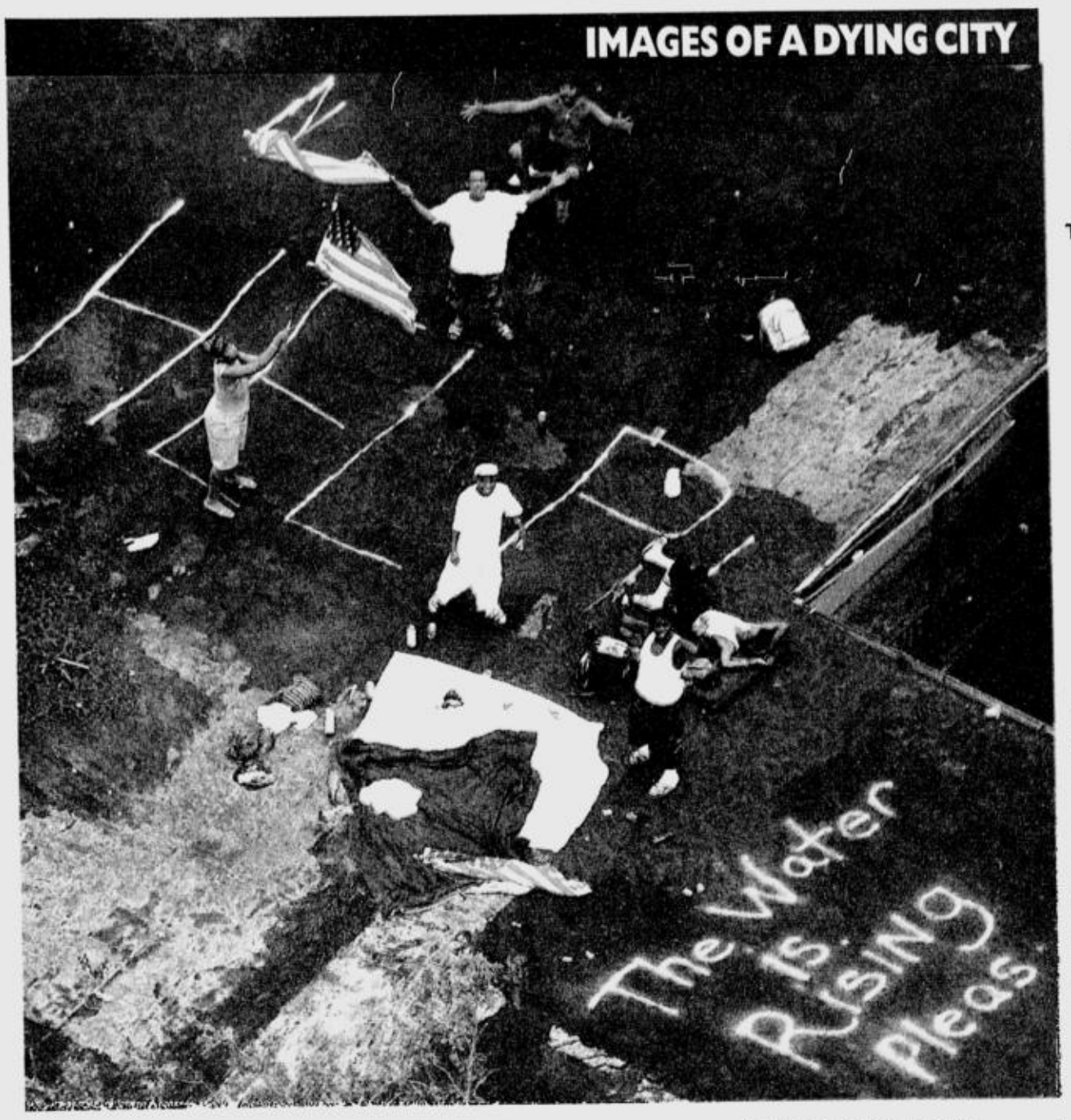
"Laban-Bawi" is a popular game in the noontime TV show "Eat Bulaga!" where a contestant chooses between an unknown combination of numbers which could win a P1-million jackpot, or he could give this up for an amount of money offered by the game show host. The amount gets bigger every time the contestant rejects the host's offer by shouting "Laban." Sometimes, the amount offered becomes too tempting, the contestant would shout, "Bawi!" and would take the money.

Ala recalled that Magsaysay half-jokingly said—following his bombshell announcement that administration people had tried to buy him off—that he would not withdraw his signature even if he was offered P5 million.

"He withdrew his signature. Does this mean he [finally] got his price?" Ala asked. "What about Agbayani? Why did he retract? What did he get for it?" he said.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

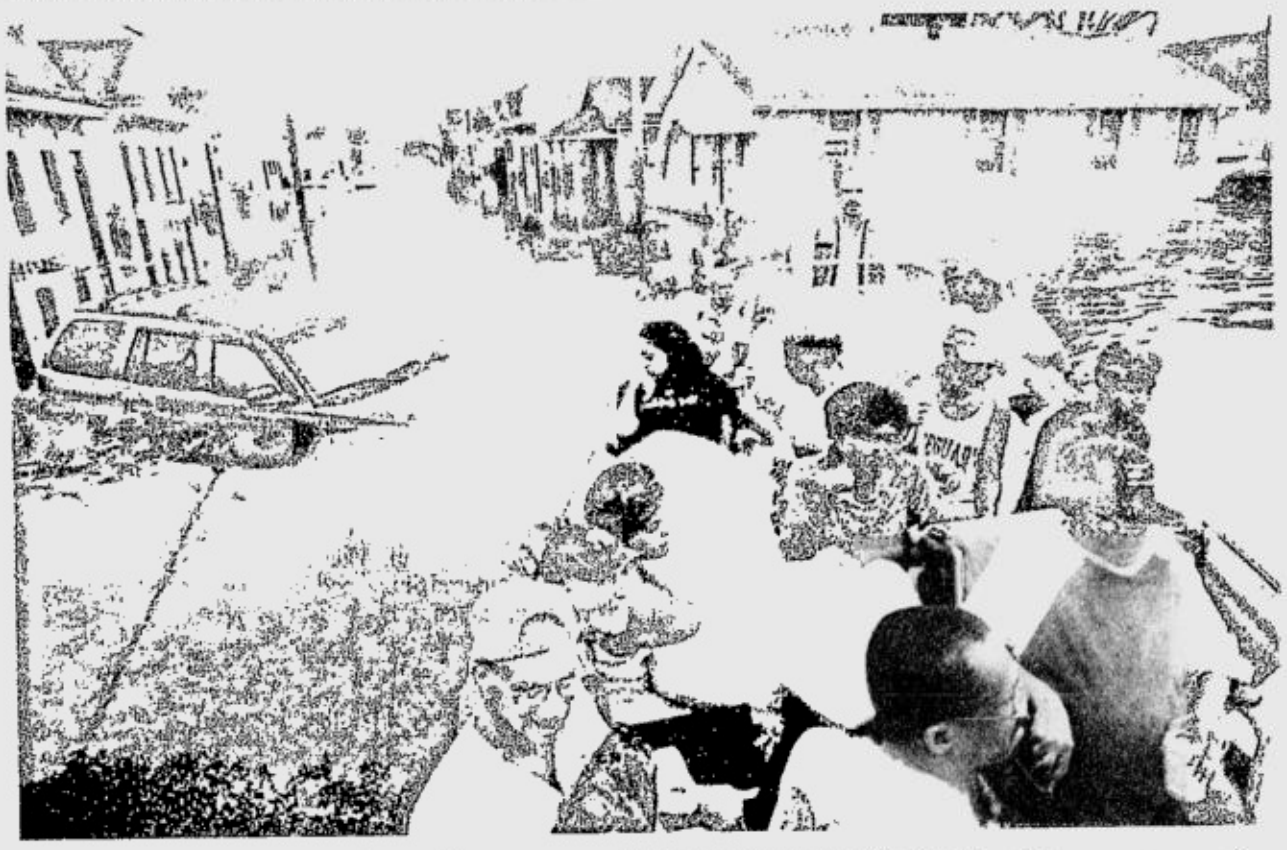
IMAGES OF A DYING CITY



A SADDENED President Bush surveys the damage Katrina wrought on the Gulf Coast states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama on Tuesday. REUTERS

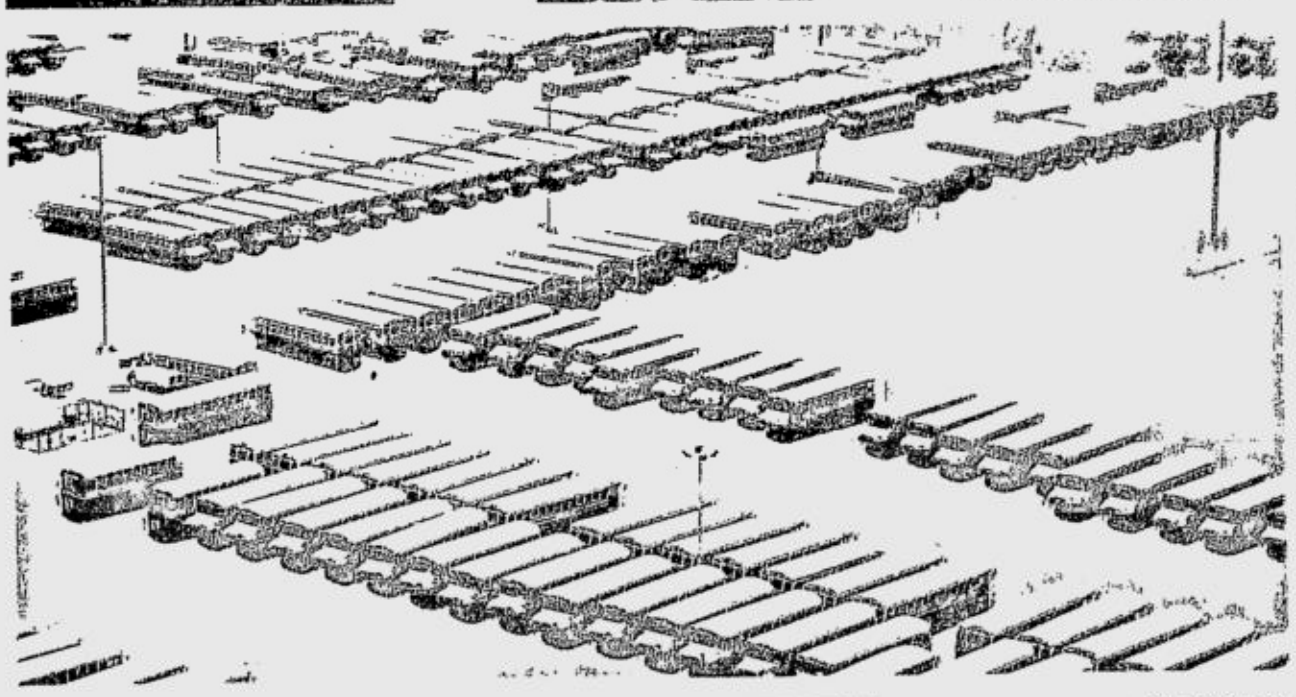
MANDATORY evacuation for flood victims including Miverthah Hendricks, 84, who waits in the rain with other flood victims outside the convention center in New Orleans. AP

BEGGING to be rescued, stranded residents in New Orleans wave anything they can get their hands on. AP



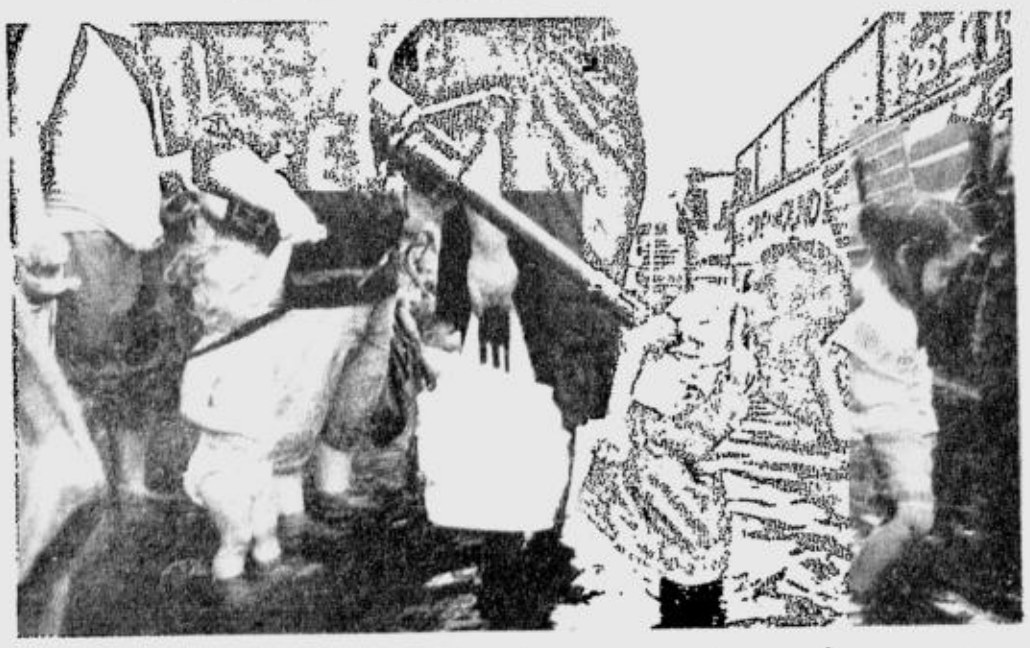
A VOLUNTEER (left) drives his boat on Thursday in New Orleans to search and rescue stranded victims. He has his hands full. AP/DALLAS MORNING NEWS)

THEY WANT OUT. Evacuees at the Superdome, where they have been staying under primitive conditions argue with National Guard members to allow them to get on the buses headed for better facilities in the Astrodome in Houston, Texas AP/ST.PETERSBURG TIMES



SCHOOL BUSES in a New Orleans parking lot are not going anywhere even four days after Katrina. AP

PATIENTS from a hospital in New Orleans are airlifted in the aftermath of the monstrous hurricane by the Missouri Air National Guard to Alexandria, Louisiana. AP



A LINE OF PEOPLE including these kids snakes from the Superdome to the nearby Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans where evacuation buses wait to take them to Houston, Texas. AP/THE ADVOCATE

THE MAN is dead but it took this man with a baby to discover that. In fact, he had been dead for two days, just sitting there outside the New Orleans Convention Center. REUTERS

'Help! We're dying:' Anxiety, deprivation grip submerged city

NEW ORLEANS—These are the scenes of a dying city: an elderly woman dead in a wheelchair outside the Convention Center, a note on her lap bearing her name.

A horrified family telling tales of pirates commandeering rescue boats at gunpoint.

Corpses left rotting in the streets.

Angry crowds chanting for the television cameras, "We're dying!" or simply "Help!"

On the streets of this submerged town, the anxiety and deprivation that had built up over four days gave way on Thursday to misery, despair and anger as the refugees of Hurricane Katrina waited yet another day for their deliverance.

While the authorities issued progress reports on the evacuation effort and reassured the rest of the nation that help was on the way, the stranded thousands here heard none of it.

Left with little or no food, water, medical care or even police protection, they looked out in fear or lashed out in rage at a world that seemed to have forgotten them.

"They're not organized," said Curtis Green, 38, a cook who stood waiting in a throng of 10,000 outside the Superdome, waiting for buses to take them away from the city. "Nobody has any plans. We're depending upon them for food, water and shelter. Who's in charge?"

Outside the Convention Center, in a once-prosperous section of town, at least a half-dozen corpses lay slumped in lawn chairs or covered with makeshift shrouds. About 15,000 to 20,000 people congregated there, many lamenting that the authorities had directed them there, then left them in the sweltering heat without food, water, medical care or even police protection.

A weeping young woman held out her dehydrated-looking child and pleaded for help.

"This is not about rich people or poor people," she said. "This is about people."

All over the city hung a sense of helplessness, of an anarchy that not even top officials could pin down with hard facts or figures. *New York Times News Service*

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OPINION

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Unchallenged terrorism

EDITORIAL

BECAUSE of the entertaining circus that is our politics, none of our officials has apparently noticed that the anniversaries of 9/11 and 10/12—the first refers to the infamous New York Twin Towers attack on Sept. 11, 2001 that killed over 2,000 people, and the second to the equally infamous Bali attack on Oct. 12 the following year that killed nearly 200—are just around the corner. Those historic terrorist attacks are usually commemorated by their authors through bloody fireworks in liberal targets elsewhere around the globe, the Philippines included.

In fact, just last weekend, at least 26 people were hurt in an explosion that ripped a ferry in Basilan. The explosion is now believed to be the handiwork of the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian ally of al-Qaida, which was behind the 9/11 attacks, and the group behind the 10/12 Bali bombing.

In short, terrorists seem on target with their usual preoccupation of marking their finest hours with a bang, probably with a bigger bang.

The Associated Press has run an investigative report, quoting named and unnamed sources here and abroad, as revealing that the Jemaah Islamiyah has been sharing bomb-making expertise with Muslim militants in the Philippines. The "sharing" appears more of an experiment rather than a technology transfer. AP reported that based on its interviews, Jemaah Islamiyah militants appear to be continuously testing new designs and explosive mixtures.

A number of recent bombs, according to the AP report, carry the Jemaah Islamiyah's signature: the use of electronics, including Indonesian-designed integrated circuit boards, and cell phones that allow more efficiency and flexibility as triggers. Moreover, to make detection difficult, the attackers use mundane items—a TV set, egg cartons, a tin of cookies, even a tube of toothpaste, a roll-on deodorant or shampoo bottle—to hide the bombs and their components. In last weekend's attack, the bomb was hidden in a carton of clothes. In the Feb. 27, 2004 explosion that set off an inferno aboard a ferry off Manila Bay and killed 116 people, the TNT had been packed and hidden in a TV set.

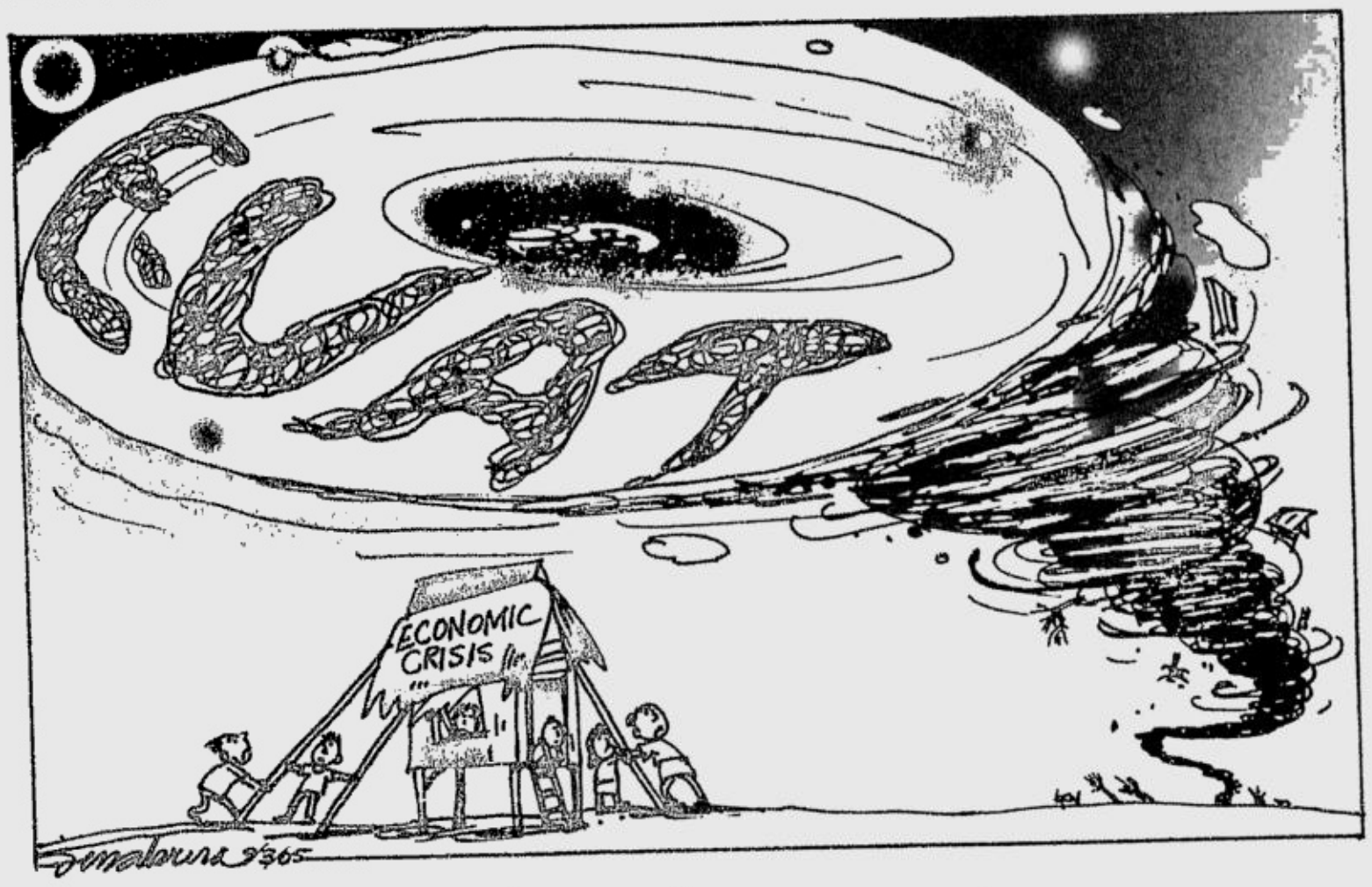
The bombs have not only been well hidden, they have also become more lethal. Perhaps even more worrisome, the attacks usually happened when the country was embroiled in scandals and controversies, like what we have now.

Last year, in fact, at the height of the election campaign, several suspected Abu Sayyaf members escaped from a Basilan jail on Black Saturday, damning a government that had been caught flat-footed on the most superstitious date in the Philippine security calendar (remember the Black Saturday coup of 1988 and the Black Saturday escape of Gregorio Honasan the following year?). Consider the superstition revolving around 9/11 and 10/12, and poor Juan de la Cruz could hardly be expected to sleep a wink this year, with all the thunder and cacophony of the political circus that is the impeachment.

But the terrorist threat is not mere superstition. Official statements are hardly reassuring. National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said 10 "Indonesian suicide bombers" are now in the country, and warned of possible biological attacks, dirty bombs and even "weapons of mass destruction." Gonzales said he based these reports on "wiretapping" and the presence of "suspicious-looking Indonesians." He was seconded by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who called on the public to be wary of people who look like Indonesians and who can't speak Tagalog.

Aside from the political incorrectness of their statements, Gonzales and Ermita clumsily expose a government spying on the people (Gonzales did not seem bothered about admitting that the government was wiretapping conversations, something that would ordinarily panic his boss and the Palace), put a ballpark figure on the number of foreign terrorists in the country, conjure terrorist attacks of unimaginable proportions ("weapons of mass destruction"), and foolishly call on the people to report Indonesian-looking people (that's just about all the Filipinos in this archipelago) who don't speak Tagalog (that's just about a third of the population).

It is easy to see why security concerns have multiplied, and not because of superstition. In the din and blare of impeachment, in the infectious circus of politics and even more politics, the government seems to miss out on the deadly business of providing security to a nation that is already unhinged by politicians' antics and terrorist bombs. In the face of genuine concern about terrorist inroads, security officials like Gonzales and Ermita seem more bent on providing entertainment, not getting down to serious business.



Insolence from a guest

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I would have simply ignored this aggravation . . . but I thought I should give fair warning to others

FOR the information of prospective subscribers of Time, I am reproducing the following exchange of letters between me and the magazine concerning my unpleasant experience with it over what is actually a paltry matter that nonetheless displays its arrogance and impoliteness.

Sometime in 2003, instead of renewing my subscription to Time, I paid for a new subscription at a higher rate because of the promise of a "free gift" in the form of an electric clock. I received the new subscription copies in due time but not the promised promo item. After waiting for a reasonable time, I wrote this letter to Time on Jan. 28, 2004:

"I tried to reach you at your telephone No. 813-4153 but always got a busy signal. I am writing instead to complain that I have not yet received the promo item for renewing my subscription to Time. I started receiving my renewed subscription copies on January 12, 2004, and have already paid the subscription charges. But I am still waiting for the electric clock you promised in your advertisement.

"If you cannot deliver the said item, please cancel my subscription and send me the corresponding refund of my renewal payment."

On March 19, 2004, I wrote this second letter to Time:

"I wrote you a letter (copy attached) inquiring about the non-delivery of the promo item for renewal of my subscription to Time. I also asked for the cancellation of my subscription if the said item could not be delivered and the refund of my subscription payment minus the cost of the copies I have received so far. To date, I have not received the promised item or the refund I am entitled to or even the courtesy of a reply from you.

"I hope simple politeness will prevent you from disregarding this letter too as I will otherwise have to take more urgent action against your rudeness."

I again did not receive any reply but I learned later that the refund I demanded had been credited to me through my credit card without any explanation or apology.

On April 21, 2005, I sent the following letter to Time, Attention: Ed Carrick, World-wide Publisher, Time magazine

"I am writing you because I cannot reach you at your announced telephone No. 11 800 1441 0133 that a mechanical voice always says 'is not yet in service.'

"I wanted to send this letter to your fax number 800 1414 0134 but was informed that it too was not yet in service.

"Sometime ago you sent me as a 'select professional' a special subscription offer with a free gift of a 3 in 1 Time cam if I replied within 14 days. I did. On March 25, 2005 you sent me your official receipt for P2,700 for 54 issues starting on April 4, 2005.

"To date, however, I have not yet received your promised 'free gift' of your advertised camera. When, if at all, will you send it? I don't know what excuse you will give me, but I expect at least the courtesy of a reply."

This time, at least, I received the following reply from Ms Cecilia Mui, Customer Service manager, on May 13, 2005:

"Dear Mr. Cruz,

"Thank you for contacting us regarding the free gift offered in your subscription.

"We are pleased to confirm that the free gift is on its way and you should receive it in the next 3-4 weeks.

"It is a pleasure to be of service.

"Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Cecilia Mui"

On Aug. 4, 2005, I sent Ms Mui the following letter:

"Enclosed is a photocopy of your letter to me dated May 13, 2005

"To date, I have not received the promo gift I was promised to receive 'in the next 3-4 weeks.'

"This is the last time I am reminding you of my exasperation."

It is now Sept. 3, 2005, and I have not yet received the promo gift or even a reply from Time. Ms Mui's letter to me was dated more than three months ago, and I have not heard since then from her or anyone else from Time about my complaint.

I would have simply ignored this aggravation by the Ugly American as represented by this insolent magazine. But I thought I should give fair warning to others who may be similarly treated as I was by this presumptuous guest in our own country.

Black, white and gray

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

COMES now the Black and White Movement whose members "believe the issues surrounding the presidency and the impeachment complaint are as clear as Black and White. There are no shades of gray when it comes to the Truth. The tapes, the letters, and the actions all speak for themselves."

Some of the members of this movement have come a long way from three months ago. At that time, judging from their public statements, they wanted an independent truth commission organized and selected by civil society (including bishops) which would be given three months (or was it one month?) to ferret out the truth surrounding the *jueteng* and tape controversies. It would be fair to assume that they had not as yet gotten to the truth, or that it hadn't spoken loudly or clearly enough to them.

The next time one hears from them, they had changed their position slightly, from asking for a truth commission formed by civil society to a fact-finding commission along the lines of the Davide Commission, created by law and with the requisite powers to conduct an independent investigation.

They almost immediately changed their position, however, almost simultaneously with the "Hyatt 10" and demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo. That position mutated again soon after (maybe because the orchestrated "clamor" for her resignation was a big flop) into a TRIO movement (for Truth, Resignation, Impeachment, Ouster). One was not sure at that point whether this meant they still wanted to get at the truth through a fact-finding or truth commission, but they had already made up their minds that Ms Arroyo must be removed; or that the truth had already been revealed to them (which the fact-finding commission would validate) and it indicated the need for Ms Arroyo's removal, in one way or another.

All doubts have been erased, it seems, with this latest metamorphosis into the Black and White Movement. There is no longer any need for the fact-finding commission. The truth is self-evident—"the tapes, the letters (of resignation?), and the actions (the Garcillano flight?) all speak for themselves." No room for any other interpretation of the "facts." "There are no shades of gray when it comes to the truth."

Really? But how can that be reconciled with studies that suggest that reality itself is subjective? A picture in an old edition of an economics textbook serves as an example: from one perspective, it depicts a herd of antelopes, and from another, it is a picture of a flight of birds. Which is the "truth"? Relatedly, studies on eyewitness testimony attest to the unreliability of eyewitness accounts. No black and white there.

Needless to say, the supporters of the Black and White Movement are portrayed as the guys in the white hats (the good guys), while Ms Arroyo is made to appear as wearing the black hat (the bad guy), following the characterization in cowboy movies. The good guys' moves are "courageous and selfless," "guided by conscience" in "stark contrast" to the latter's, which are "desperate moves to remain in power," "selfish" and even "evil." Black and white.

Excuse me, but I see some pretty dark spots on the white hats and some pretty light spots on the black hat.

Take Bill Luz. He is quoted as saying that cheating is a moral issue in which there are no shades of gray—there's only black and white (that may be how the Black and White nomenclature came about). Why then is he willing to live with electoral anomalies under certain conditions? After the elections last year, he said: "The results of the elections are credible and reflect the vote of the people. We didn't see enough electoral anomalies at the national level to have a material effect on the national results." He has described other elections after 1986 in a similar vein. Doesn't that mean that he was willing to live with cheating as long as it didn't affect the outcome? That looks like a real gray area to me.

Or take Dinky Soliman, who used the term "evil" on TV to describe Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and has said that she is carrying on her battle to remove Ms Arroyo because she owes it to her children. That's about as black-and-white a portrayal as you can get. Yet for four years she was the President's closest Cabinet aide, defending and supporting her boss up to the time she resigned. Don't her actions imply that either she was looking at shades of gray, or she was willing to live with what was clearly black? If she knew that her colleagues, Florencio Abad and Cesar Purisima, went to Hong Kong to talk to Vice President Noli de Castro, would she have classified that action as black, white or gray?

Now take the "evil" Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is portrayed as being so desperate to remain in power (black) that she cheated (black) in order to win. She "stole" the elections—that is the "truth," according to the black and white theory. In which case, how are we to regard the results of the pre-election surveys, and the exit polls that pointed to her victory, or the Namfrel statement or the statement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines "that there were some instances of cheating and violations of election law by political parties in their areas, but these did not affect the voting in general," and "It is the view of the bishops that the results of the (2004) elections reflected the will of the Filipino people"? All lies?

Spare us the sanctimony, please.

Citizens appeal to opposition: Keep off the streets

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE are reports that the opposition would take to the streets on Monday or Tuesday next week, as the House of Representatives winds up the impeachment process by bringing the justice committee report to the plenary for voting. Reports say the mass actions may dovetail with "September Storm," a month-long campaign of the militants to bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo. These protests may be tied up to the fact that many political pundits have opined that the impeachment case appears to have lost steam, as the opposition can't seem to get the 79 needed signatures. It is doubtful, however, if such street actions could gain enough support, for the citizens know and believe that such a move would only hurt our economy and our nation more.

* * *

Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon wrote to protest his inclusion in my recent write-up about the young congressmen, some of them neophytes, who harangued House leaders during the turmoil in the House last Tuesday. I had sat through the entire proceedings that day at the House and had written that Representatives Teofisto Guingona III and Biazon had harangued Speaker Jose de Venecia and "jabbed their fingers at him." I also reported that Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. had threatened the committee chair, Rep. Simeon Datumanong, with a "rebellion" if the opposition was not given a fair shake. Biazon denied any participation, saying, "That is not the way my parents, who have instilled in me the highest respect for authority and discipline, brought me up." He said he was "constantly aware and conscious of the need for me to control my emotions and maintain proper decorum." Biazon denied the episode and let's respect that. But I stand by my story regarding Guingona and Jaworski, which was confirmed by the leaders they had confronted. In fact, reports say Guingona has apologized to JDV which speaks well of him.

* * *

Former President Fidel Ramos says he sees "no outrage" from citizens over the dismissal of the three complaints by the justice committee. Some radio commentators have reinforced this perception, noting that they received few reactions from the citizenry. *Mukhang pagod na lahat.* I also caught a recent TV forum where three anti-GMA civil society leaders admitted with undisguised frustration that they were unable to generate positive reaction to their call for people power. But not for want of trying: last night the anti-GMA forces led by Cory Aquino, staged a vigil at the DLSU gym in Greenhills to call for GMA's ouster. "The people are not being drawn into the conflict of the impeachment issue, but the economic issue," said FVR. And he is right. But I think other reasons include the fact that citizens cannot see any alternative to GMA among those presenting themselves as opposition leaders, and that only chaos would ensue from her exit.

* * *

For instance, Rep. Teddyboy Locsin reacted to the speech of Rep. Agapito Aquino about how the latter is still searching for the truth behind his brother Ninoy's murder 22 years after it happened. Aquino likened it to the "fruitless search" for the truth behind the allegations against GMA. Over NBN, Locsin cautioned him not to exploit Ninoy's memory. Locsin also stressed that he himself cannot sit down with the group that counts members of the family that killed Ninoy as well as people who had enriched themselves during the time of Marcos, while the common people became increasingly poor. He asked whether the pro-impeachment group's statement that it would unveil its evidence only in the Senate means that only then would it begin its "fishing expedition." He also asked how anyone could sign the impeachment complaint when the opposition classifies those who do not sign as liars.

* * *

The Hyatt 10, a.k.a. "Anay 10" or the "Kiss-n-Tell Bandits," have been making the rounds of various media forums as well as citizens' gatherings to spin their tale of corruption of GMA. Six of them showed up at the INQUIRER last Thursday evening and were at a Quezon City church forum yesterday afternoon. But in the process of justifying their turnabouts they also have reaped brickbats for violating the unspoken code of confidentiality as the President's alter ego. In fact, columnist Alvin Capino has correctly asked, "Who would trust them now?"

* * *

The members of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc., led by Gina de Venecia, may be just as deeply involved in the impeachment case as their spouses, but it's also business as usual for them. CSFI opened yesterday its Kabuhayan 2005 national livelihood trade fair featuring handicrafts, foodstuff (such as *bangus Bonoan* from Gina), delicacies and other products from the various provinces for sale at the 5th level of SM Megatrade Hall II, Bldg. B, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The trade fair runs until Sunday, Sept. 4, and is open to the public.

* * *

Tomorrow is a red-letter day for the family of former Sen. Heherson Alvarez. His mother, Ms Juanita Turingan Alvarez, turns 90 years old and the family is celebrating it in their native Santiago, Isabela, starting with a Holy Mass to be said by Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan. *Maligayang bati* to Ms Alvarez. A former beauty queen of Batangas in her youth, she was a dedicated school teacher who raised up her family single-handedly after her husband, Marcelo, who fought with the Allied forces in the Liberation of Manila during World War II, died of a heart attack in the mid-'70s. The elder Alvarez's demise came soon after their son, Marsman, was killed by Marcos' men at the height of martial law, which also saw Sonny and Cecile Alvarez go into self-imposed exile in the United States, where they worked actively for the anti-Marcos movement. Ms Alvarez is a great devotee of the Cagayan Valley's patroness, Our Lady of Piat.

'Silver Linings'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LEAVE it to multi-hyphenated woman (wife-mother-movie/TV writer-actress-comedienne-activist-survivor) Bibeth Orteza to see the silver lining in living with breast cancer. "Breast cancer is like true love," she says dryly. "It stays with you forever."

During her mastectomy and subsequent chemo and radiation treatment, Bibeth says that what enabled her to endure the pain and the agony was the realization of the many things for which she should be grateful. "While deciding whether I should undergo a mastectomy or not, not once did it cross my mind that I might lose my husband (movie-TV director Carlitos Siguion-Reyna) along with one breast. He just wasn't made that way. After my operation, I woke up in my hospital bed and found my husband asleep in a chair. It was then I realized that I no longer needed to win the lotto, because in him I already found my jackpot! And during my chemo and radiation, I didn't have to worry about commuting to and from the hospital because I had a car and a driver. I didn't have to worry about work because my family allowed me to focus on getting well. And most important of all, I didn't have to worry about finding the money for my treatment."

Meeting other breast cancer survivors and their families, says Bibeth, opened her eyes to the far more daunting challenges that other women, women less privileged than her, must face every day. "Other women like me had to commute to the hospital in jeepneys or tricycles. They had to do housework and even take on laundry even as they had been weakened by chemo because their families needed their income to survive. And when the money ran out, they simply stopped coming for treatment."

* * *

GIVEN the grim realities of breast and other cancers for the majority of women in the Philippines, and the ominous prospects for most Filipinas (the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia), it seems remarkable that the organizers of the first "Nationwide Breast Cancer Forum and Homecoming" should choose to name the affair "Silver Linings."

But as Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, founder of the I Can Serve foundation that is behind "Silver Linings," stressed, the event is meant to be "positive and nurturing" and respectful of the sensitivities of breast cancer survivors and their families.

"Silver Linings," which takes place on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Garden Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, is open to the public, that is, to everyone who wants to know more about breast and other cancers, and ways of coping with the disease. "It will be a full day of inspiration, education and relaxation," Kara promised.

Among the topics to be discussed in forums, consultations and activities are: "Everything you want to know about breast cancer," starting and maintaining a support group, hospice care, how husbands/partners or parents cope with cancer in the family, grief counseling, ways to wear a wig, and even nutrition and the South Beach Diet. The family of Rio Diaz-Cojuangco, whose courage and faith after being diagnosed with cancer inspired the nation, will also speak on how the family "kept it together" for Rio. Hosts for each activity include Bibeth Orteza, Karen Davila, Ces Drilon, Cherie Gil, Maritoni Fernandez, Cecile Alvarez, Rachel Alejandro, Chiqui Roa-Puno, Cathy Tanco Ong and Dr. Rachel Rosario.

Free consultations throughout the day will also be provided by I Can Serve patient advocates and cancer specialists led by Dr. Diana Cua and Dr. Barbara Domingo. A minimum donation of P100 will be charged.

* * *

WHAT will surely be a most striking feature of "Silver Linings" will be the putting up of a "Gratitude Wall," where breast cancer survivors will exhibit letters, insights, musings and even their works of art that helped them through their "journey towards healing."

"We are all on this journey together," Bibeth said at a lunch for the media held recently at Mylk (My Little Kitchen) at Greenbelt 3 (sponsored by HSBC). Kara herself called it being part of a "sisterhood of cancer," an instantaneous bonding that springs from a shared experience, regardless of one's origins, economic and social status, achievements, abilities.

"Since I joined this sisterhood," Kara recalled, "I have met so many brave and creative and optimistic women. And since the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia, I guess it's safe to say that we have the biggest number of brave, creative and optimistic women!"

* * *

WHILE a diagnosis of breast and other cancers is no longer the "death sentence" it once was, too many women (and men and children) are still dying from the disease, mainly because most are diagnosed too late due to ignorance and not being able to afford the required tests.

Bridging the information gap through high-impact information campaigns on breast cancer was the main goal of I Can Serve when it was founded by Kara and other cancer survivors in 1999.

Inspired by the mission "to arm women with breast cancer information so they can make informed decisions about their health," the foundation publishes a book, "I Can Serve: A Network of People, Places and Services for the Philippine Breast Cancer Community," that is updated every two years and distributed free through a grant from Bristol Myers Squibb.

I Can Serve also hosts the "Ka Chat" counseling hotline (697-3942), produces video materials on the disease and conducts fora and workshops upon invitation.

With the hosting of "Silver Linings," the foundation would, it is hoped, put an entirely new "spin" on the way society looks upon breast and other cancers and the women and their families constantly finding the silver linings in their lives.

Viva Albay!

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

JUST when I was about to write finis to the cause of Filipino heritage, seeing as the nation is losing both the Mehan Garden and the Arroceros Forest Park in one fell swoop with not a single public official protesting the carnage, along comes a letter from Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez informing me that the province was launching the Albay Architectural Heritage Project together with the Aquinas University on Aug. 29.

Delighted to get out of the Manila snake pit, still I nearly missed the plane due to a dysfunctional alarm clock and the malfunctioning owner. Leaving the house at 6:15 a.m. for the 7 a.m. flight, we reached Naia 2 in 15 minutes, making me seriously wonder while en route whether I would end up splattered all over the dashboard. I did get there on time, but rattled by the porter who said the passengers on the flight were boarding, I zoomed into the plane like Darna—only to find I was the second passenger to board. (From now on, I'm not going to believe anyone who tells me I have to be at the airport an hour before departure.)

But back to the conference and the project. Research and documentation comprise the first phase divided into two areas: historical and architectural documentation. Dreaming big, the group hopes that this will eventually lead to restoration projects and the publication and use of historical writings in the schools. The intended outcome of this first phase will be a catalogue of historical structures, "complete with historical data, photographs and architectural plans." The people of Albay feel that it is a project of national importance, given its nature and scope since nothing of this kind has been done. Once finished, other provinces could use it as a reference and model.

Aquinas University's College of Architecture and Fine Arts, headed by its dean, Rino Fernandez, initially documented buildings and ruins in Albay, including the Tabaco Cimborio (I used to think the name referred to tobacco, but the word is actually "*tabac*," meaning bolo or knife), the churches in Tabaco, Sto. Domingo (this was a town called Libog, but with everyone mispronouncing it and having a good laugh, the townspeople decided to change it), Daraga, Camalig, Ligao and the Albay Cathedral and the ruins of Colegio de San Buenaventura in Guinobatan and Villa Encantada in Malinao.

The college is digitizing the ruins of Budiao, Cagsawa and Sinimbahanan; the churches of Guinobatan and Oas; Spanish bridges in the 3rd district; and the *mojones* in the 1st and 3rd districts. Architectural plans will be drawn up and material regarding the oral traditions, land titles, legal papers, journals, books, maps, plans, paintings, sketches and photographs in libraries and archives will be researched and compiled. Eventually, traveling exhibits will be mounted in all the municipalities of the province to enhance heritage awareness.

There is already a Mayon Volcano Heritage Tour Pamphlet Project being prepared by the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Office with the help of Aquinas University, which can be used for packaged tours of heritage sites around Mayon Volcano to serve both tourists and local tour guides providing information on the sites and including socio-historical, cultural and artistic data. Photos and architectural and structural features of the sites will also be included. This project also aims to raise awareness in order to preserve these heritage sites.

The people of other provinces and cities should be so lucky as to have a governor like Gonzalez. At the conference held at the spanking new Hotel Venezia Convention Hall, Bishop Jose C. Sorra gave an impassioned and stirring address that the Cebu cardinal should have heard so that the parish priest of Argao, guilty of erasing 200 years of history, could be exiled to Burias or perhaps to the Marianas, which unfortunately doesn't belong to us anymore. The presence of Bishop Lucilo Quimpo, representing Bishop Nestor Cariño, and the presence of many of the parish priests of the churches in question manifested their support and solidarity behind the governor's project. And then there was Director Javier Galvan of the Instituto Cervantes who presented a substantial check to fund phase one of the project.

Considering that I was there for only 24 hours, I managed to end up with a python in my freezer, several tons of pili nuts in all forms and configurations, thanks to our generous hosts, and trays of *pinangat* to remind me that proteins don't taste good without carbos.

The python ended up in my freezer because I wanted to eat *bayawak*. Being innately hospitable and gracious and wanting to oblige eccentric guests, Professors Jazmin Llana and Bonita Mission stopped by a restaurant poetically called Solamente owned by a Mr. Regalado. Alas and alack, there were no lizards but there was a snake and would I care to eat some? Now what self-respecting full-blooded Filipina will turn down such an offer?

Aside from python, we were also served some wonderful crispy snipes and frogs' legs. At the end of this marvelous experience, Regalado asked me if I wanted a python to make into shoes and maybe a belt, which was how I ended up with a 15-foot python (or was it 25?) in the freezer, to the shock of the maid. Now, if I could only find someone who cures skins...

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

For love of the game

YOUNG BLOOD

Miguel Bassig

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT was a Tuesday when the fire was extinguished.

As I heaved basketballs from beyond the three-point arc, Coach Gabby summoned me to the scorer's table. He wished to talk to me in private—or at least where none of my teammates would be able to eavesdrop. A few of them had already left for their classes, others were horsing around, while still others were doing push-ups.

Although I hurriedly ran up to him, I was far from eager to hear what Coach had to say. If I had heeded what my inner voice was saying, I would have taken very small, slow steps because I knew what was coming. But one basic basketball lesson drilled into my head is that I have to move from one spot to another as quickly as possible.

Coach was wearing a solemn frown on his face, much like that of a businessman after a meeting gone bad. I tried to match his with my own version of a serious look.

This was no time for post-practice banter. As soon as Coach settled down and the bouncing basketballs were but a faint noise in the background, I sat on the table, drenched with sweat, fidgeting nervously and biting my nails. It was obvious he wasn't about to give me pointers on how to improve my jump shot or how to run the screen-and-roll. We were going to talk about "personnel movement."

For many restless nights, I had tried to brace myself for that devastating announcement. With Coach just a few minutes away from actually making it, my heart was pounding, and had it gone a bit louder, he would have heard it.

"Damn," I thought, "one whole summer of discontent and it all adds up to this." I wished he would just make a hand signal or give me a look that would say it all.

"Migs..." he began, and for a second I thought his voice was trailing off. "I want you to know, I appreciate the hard work you've put in the past several days, and that you really impressed me during the tryouts. You're extremely coachable and you've got the best mid-range game on this team..."

When he said these words, I knew he was only trying to cushion the blow, his compliment meant to soften the disappointment. As soon as the conversation shifted to the next stage—the excuses stage, when he would say, "You're just too small to be a two guard" or "We've got to give way for the freshmen"—I was swallowing hard to keep my tears from falling. One minute I was crippled with fear, the next minute I was overwhelmed with sadness. The reality, which before had been imminent, was right here. One spot to another, indeed, just like our on-court protocol. I was off the team.

From the gym, I went straight to the cafeteria to attend a meeting regarding a thesis proposal. I don't remember much else now. Commuting home was a blur, much like those moving images that haunt people in their nightmares: vehicles and pedestrians speeding past me like bullets. As soon as I reached home, I locked myself up in my room and wept like a forsaken baby.

I was off the team. I was off the team. I was off the team.

For a while my thoughts turned to Coach. I didn't hate him. I just hated that he had to make that decision. As tears rolled down my cheeks, I knew deep down that it wasn't his fault. He simply had to do it: I was too small, and so on and so forth. Still, it wasn't easy trying to reason with myself while my melodrama was playing full volume. And it wasn't easy to be hopeful after my dream had been crushed.

Many months have passed since then. A once-fiery passion has waned and a beer belly has started to develop. Vices have replaced ambitions that had been quashed. But I still haven't come to accept fully the irony that I have switched from one leading cause of heart disease (shattered dreams) to another (smoking).

Lately I have been returning to the court to play friendly pick-up games with neighbors, about once a week. Friends have chided me for letting so many weeks pass without touching a basketball, because the Migs they knew was the Migs who played to his heart's content. But I would just shrug and say, "Well, the fire is no longer there, I guess."

That is how my lame excuse goes—from a crackling flame to a faint flicker, and finally to ashes of nothingness.

A friend once wrote on his journal, "Love something more, for that something will never leave you."

Many times, I pondered in silence the meaning of this statement. Where could I find something that would never leave me? My eyes looked through many telescopes, my hands dug deep holes, my feet grew callused traveling to far-away places, searching for that "something more."

And then it hit me as I sat one day on my bed which, despite its tiny size, seemed way too big for me. Under the window pane, I found the last piece that would complete the puzzle, the definitive evidence that would straighten out my confusion. It was a gold-plated trophy, a little dusty but still immaculate and glistening in the sunlight. On its base was written: "Miguel Bassig, Most Valuable Player, Streetball Challenge."

It hit me hard enough to make me realize how stupid I had been: Basketball never left me. I was the one who had turned my back on the game. I was so disheartened by failure that I refused to acknowledge how much I loved the game—minus the politics of recruitment and the strain of competition—and how pure the pleasure I got from simply making a crisp pass or a two-handed dunk. While I drifted away, looking for something else to love, I refused to acknowledge that basketball couldn't have offered me anything more. While I sulked after being cut from the team, I told myself I was being foolish for allowing an inflated orange ball to make me believe that humans can fly, that nothing is impossible, that dreams can come true, that I can be whatever I wish to be, including what I wrote on my childhood diary: "the greatest Filipino basketball player ever."

Basketball was the very thing that made me believe in myself. Fortunately, it never left me, never left my side, never moved an inch. There isn't much else that I love more, and not much else that gives me joy in doing so. I know now since it's embossed right there on the metal plaque affixed to the trophy.

I am eternally grateful that one early summer morning I had the chance to first bounce a basketball on an asphalt playground. Because now I know that what I feel for the game is nothing less than love.

Miguel Bassig, 20, is a communication arts graduate from Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

The INQUIRER is a member of the

PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

A daily dose of good news for readers of Inquirer

GREETINGS and congratulations to the INQUIRER for publishing on the front page Gilda Cordero Fernando's article, "Sky not falling, or why expats choose to live here." (PDI, 8/21/05)

What a truly refreshing and inspiring piece to read. Very uplifting, and it really makes one feel the invigorating dew drops that still abound in a seemingly parched, arid land.

How about the INQUIRER making it an editorial policy of putting on the front page, such wonderful pieces of "good news" every day? Something like a "good news" corner, where the reader can have a daily dose of edifying commentaries not just from such well-respected writers like Gilda Cordero Fernando (a fellow Theresian), but also from other contributors whose literary style is at par with the INQUIRER's high standards.

We're looking forward to more such articles and commentaries. God Bless!

—CHITA GUEVARA MONFORT

No comment on credibility of charges vs Erap

ON THE AUG. 16 issue of the INQUIRER, there was an article titled "Erap plunder raps hard to believe—Reuter."

Before the court, I testified on the good things that I know Erap did for the poor. I said nothing about the charges against him, because I know nothing about them. And I certainly am not competent to express my opinion about those charges before a court of law.

During the ambush interview, outside the Sandiganbayan, I repeated my testimony on the charity of Erap toward the destitute poor. This I know, personally.

I made no comment on the credibility of the charges against him—an area in which I am not competent.

At first I was inclined to ignore the article, because our newspapers are noted for their lack of accuracy. But I have received many expressions of wonder from my friends—priests, nuns and lay people.

—JAMES B. REUTER, S.J.,
National Office of Mass Media,
2307 Pedro Gil St.,
Sta. Ana, Manila

IT is true that Father Reuter did not testify on the credibility of the charges against Joseph Estrada. He only commented on the good character and humane side of the former president. It is regrettable that I was not able to convey properly what he meant when he testified as a character witness for Estrada before the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

—NELSON F. FLORES,
PDI reporter

Warning, coco levy fund in danger

WHILE the country is embroiled in the "Hello Garci" scandal and impeachment complaint, Danding Cojuangco and the government are maneuvering to sign a compromise agreement that would give the former control over the sequestered coco levy funds. The FoodFirst Information & Action Network-Philippines (FIAN Philippines) strongly opposes this compromise deal. The Supreme Court has already declared that the coco levy fund is a public fund. This should be used for the welfare of the coconut farmers, not for the benefit of Cojuangco.

Aside from the sequestered funds, the government should also use the millions of pesos being generated by the CIIF (Coconut Industry Investment Fund) group of companies but these are just being used to satisfy the luxurious tastes of CIIF officials. The First Gentleman is allegedly also trying to dip his hand into the CIIF funds.

A trust fund committee composed of genuine coco farmer representatives should be formed to see to it that the sequestered fund and CIIF earnings are being used to uplift the lives of coconut farmers who belong to one of the poorest sectors in the country.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,
policy advocacy officer,
FoodFirst Information & Action Network-Philippines (FIAN Philippines),
9-B Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Environment as crucial as political system

IT is not only our country's political system and economy that are deteriorating. They may be important to nation-building, but just because they are is not an excuse for forgetting the environmental issues.

It scares me to think of waking up one day only to find ourselves in a nightmare of dirty rivers and flooded areas, and without clean air to breathe. For what is wealth and fortune compared to a clean surrounding and a healthy nation? What are the nationalists fighting for if this nation and its people are dying? What are laws for if they are not implemented faithfully?

While everyone is busy concentrating on resolving the political crisis, or doing math on how to boost our country's economy, I hope we stop for a while and take time to save our environment. I hope that, instead of just thinking on how to earn money, businessmen also contribute to environmental projects.

And I hope that politicians fight not just to resolve the political issues this country is facing but also to do their job in protecting an essential part of human living. It is sad to see that only a few of them choose to do so.

—LOREN PEREZ LEE,
hon_4103@yahoo.com

Sign of a weak mind

I AM commenting on a passage taken from Volts Castillo's Young Blood article, "Father and son" (PDI, 8/2/05), in which he stated and I quote: "I am an old-school guy, and I think men shouldn't be opening up to anything, and those that do so are weak. As men, it's simply not our lot in life to ask for advice from anyone else other than our fathers. You're the man, everything in your family depends on your wisdom. If you go around 'opening up' to your friends, hoping to win sympathy and help, then you might as well put on a dress and swish around the room for us because you're a bit soft."

Castillo's article was touching at best. But I was offended when I read the passage above. What Castillo means by "old school" actually stands for sexist and patriarchal. I feel offended that he is so adamant about his beliefs (which are obviously outdated) about what men should and should not do. Opening up is a usual female habit, but he sees it as an exclusive female trait, even equating it to weakness.

A man who does what women usually do is weak. Is he saying that women are weak? That line is unfair to both men and women because it sets a dictated standard on who people should be and what they should do. I have lots of male friends who are not afraid to share their feelings, and it doesn't make them less of a man. Things like that shouldn't even matter. We should all be free to do whatever we want without the narrow-minded judgment of others. And I don't recall fathers being the only parents in the house. It is a well-known fact that mothers work as hard as—or even harder than—some fathers. Our OFWs are predominantly female.

In the Philippines, more and more women are supporting their families. So I think we deserve a little bit more respect. Fathers are not the only sources of wisdom. Fathers do not get to decide everything in the home. There should be an equal balance of power. Don't judge us and don't judge other men, too. That is a sign of a weak mind.

—NICOLE LIM,
nicole_1729@hotmail.com

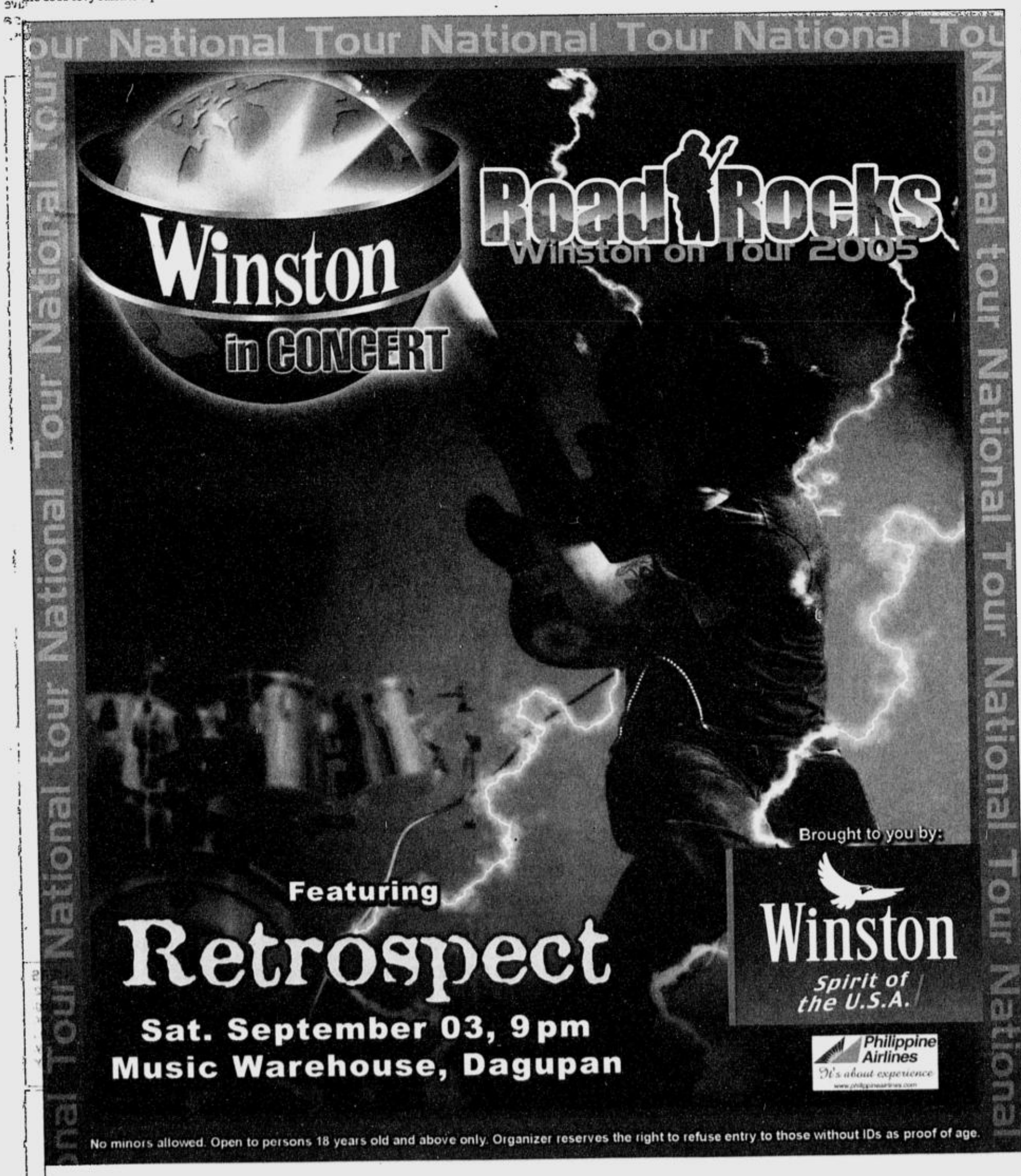
Religion in schools

IN BEHALF of the senior students of Stella Maris College, may I inform you that House Bill 3868 authored by Rep. Edmundo Reyes has come to our attention. Since we come from a Catholic school, we have long known the importance of teaching Religion.

It is a subject that has enriched our spiritual lives and strengthened our moral values. It is vital that Religion be taught in every school, most especially now that progress and modern technology are fast eroding the spirituality of the students.

We, therefore, support this bill and pray that Congress pass it soon for there is a need to fill our country with God-fearing young men and women who will one day eliminate all kinds of graft and corruption.

—NICOLE B. SAN JUAN,
High School Student Council governor,
Stella Maris College,
Cambridge Street,
Cubao, Quezon City



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

25-year-long testimony of loyal public service

THIS is a reaction to the story "Captain says Garci met Batangas gov before '04 polls." (PDI, 8/10/05)

I feel strongly about the unpleasant and unceremonious mention of my name in the report. I submit that my name was mentioned by Michaelangelo Zuce in the supposed La Vista payoffs. I do not, however, believe that Inquirer reporter Marlon Ramos had the right to dangle my name in any way and at any time he wants, not even by the grace of God. Ramos should have been responsible enough and more circumspect in bringing his news to the public.

I may be a person of humble stature, but I deserve to be given the opportunity to air my side on an issue that affects me; especially in this case, because the issue could destroy not only my career as a public servant but also my credibility as a private citizen.

Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was my commissioner in charge in Region 4, where I was the Comelec regional director during the 2004 elections (I still am). As such, I often met with Garcillano to discuss administrative matters. I even met with several politicians (regardless of whether they belong to the administration or opposition)—and their emissaries—but solely to clarify matters regarding resolutions and directives issued by the Comelec en banc.

Indeed, I met with Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez, as I did Charito Apacible before the 2004 elections. Not only because they are my fellow Batangueños, but also because my position dictated me to communicate with them and other politicians in Region 4 whenever they wanted to consult me. But never did I accept any offer from them.

If by meeting them (which is part of the responsibilities of my office) fell short of the standard of proper decorum, then by all means Ramos is free to judge me in any manner he wishes. But let me tell him this, it is not a walk in the park to be serving as a Comelec regional director. In that capacity, one is faced with serious political issues and conflicting interests that he or she has to arbitrate and decide on, whether he or she likes it or not.

For almost 25 years now, I have served humbly in the Comelec. I started as an election officer of Manila. I do not remember any instance in my career where an administrative case was filed against me or where I compromised my convictions in favor of a politician or any entity for that matter.

If there was massive cheating in Batangas—perpetrated with my participation and in cahoots with Garcillano, as insinuated—why was there no case or complaint filed against me? Records show that in the election protest filed by Apacible before the Comelec, the alleged improprieties and irregularities are said to have been committed by the Provincial Board of Canvassers.

—JUANITO O. ICARO,
director 4,
Commission on Elections-Region 4

THE INQUIRER was quoting former Batangas gubernatorial candidate Charito Apacible when it first mentioned Mr. Icaro's name. The second time it mentioned his name was in the last paragraph of the story when, as a backgrounder, the INQUIRER said "Icaro was mentioned twice in Michaelangelo Zuce's statement on Aug. 1..." In both instances, there was no malice on the part of the undersigned, only simple statements of facts.

—MARLON RAMOS
correspondent,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Employees fight 'for life and justice'

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

LIKE any other weekday, Hermenegildo Calzado, 54, would wake up at around 5 a.m. and prepare breakfast for their 19-year-old daughter before she goes to school.

By 8 a.m. he would be at the University of San Agustin (USA) where he has worked as a filing clerk for the past 25 years. But for the past three months, he has not gone beyond the gates of the university.

Hermenegildo with his wife Ma. Luz and 15 other school employees have been holding a strike since April 25 in front of the school campus after they were dismissed by the school administration.

For more than 100 days, the terminated employees, all officers of the USA Employees Union (USA-EU), have set up a strike center beside the front fence of the campus along General Luna Street.

The striking employees have erected makeshift tents and plastic chairs and adorned them with streamers and placards calling for their reinstatement.

The protesters would start the day by praying the rosary at the makeshift altar that held the image of the Virgin Mary. The rest of the day would be spent giving interviews to reporters and discussing their plight with students and other sympathizers who drop by.

They would also speak out in the public address system reiterating the justness of their cause, which they dubbed the "Fight for Life and Justice."

STUDENTS show their sympathy to the protesting employees. NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

Unmoved

But USA president Fr. Manuel Vergara has remained unmoved by the three-month strike and calls for the reinstatement of the union officers until the case is resolved by the courts. He said the reinstatement of the workers was "non-negotiable."

Vergara ordered the termination of the union officers on April 5 based on a March 4, 2005 ruling of the 20th Division of the Court of Appeals (CA) that declared as illegal the strike held by the union on Sept. 19, 2003. The CA order stated that the school had the option to terminate the union officers because of the illegality of the strike.

The same ruling, however, affirmed the economic demands of the employees, which amounted to around P12 million as their computed share in the proceeds of the tuition increase implemented in school year 2003-2004.

The union declared a strike in 2003 after a deadlock in negotiations of their collective bargaining agreement especially in the computation of the share of the employees from the proceeds of the tuition increase.

Both parties have filed motions for partial reconsideration now pending before the appellate court.

Aside from the Calzado couple, Vergara ordered the termination of union officials Theodore Neil Lasola, Merlyn Jara, Julius Mario, Flaviano Manalo, Rudante Dolar, Rizalene Villanueva, Rene Cabalum, Maximo Montero, Ray Anthony Zuñiga, Nelsa Laurea, Rodolfo Betito, Rover John Tavarro, Rena Lete, Ramon Vacante and Alfredo Goriona.

The employees called the termination of the union officers as "unchristian" and "a clear case of union-busting" by the school administration.

But Vergara, who has largely avoided giving interviews to reporters, said the case was up to the courts. The administration has repeatedly issued statements saying that it was only abiding by the CA ruling.

As the strike dragged on, a number of students have joined their teachers at the strike center in between classes. They have attended Masses, lit candles in front of the school gate and displayed placards and streamers during protest actions.

"We are affected. Some of our best teachers are at the opposite side of the fence," said Romar Cayote, 22, spokesperson of the United Students Alliance for the University of San Agustin (USA@USA), which is calling for the reinstatement of the dismissed employees.

Cayote has lost his scholarship after he sympathized with the strikers despite a positive evaluation of his performance as a working student.

Impasse

During a recent dialogue between students and the administration, Cayote appealed to Vergara to reinstate the employees in line with the Christian virtues espoused by the school. "Where is the love, compassion and humility, Father?" he asked Vergara amid the cheers of thousands of students.

The USA Student Council, whose officers said they were neutral in the impasse, has drawn criticisms from students who saw the council as a mouthpiece of the administration. The council officers were heckled during the recent dialogue.

Government and church officials including Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo have mediated to end the conflict.

But their efforts have so far failed to resolve the conflict in the university, one of the oldest and biggest schools in Western Visayas. Founded in 1904 by the Augustinian friars, USA has around 10,000 students.

The impasse has taken its toll on the striking employees many of whom have been employed in the university for more than 15 years.

"After receiving no salary for three months, our savings are gone," said Hermenegildo.

He said they have relied on loans from friends and rice donations. Their fellow teachers have chipped in to help support their daughter's tuition and other school expenses.

His wife Ma. Luz, 55, started giving tutorial lessons but he said her income is barely enough for their needs. "It is very hard for us to find other jobs at our age," he said.

Another dismissed employee who has taught at the College of Commerce and Accounting for 11 years is living through loans from financing institutions, pawning jewelry and part-time consultancy work.

The 47-year-old employee asked not to be identified because he is a applying for a job in a foreign-owned firm. His wife and three children were staying with his siblings and parents-in-law because his income could not support their needs.

His eldest son, an electrical engineering graduate, now works and stays with his older brother to help raise money to pay for his review for the board examination. His daughter lives with his sister who is supporting the child's schooling.

The youngest child and his wife stay with his parents-in-law. The family gets together only during weekends.

Demoralized

"My children are demoralized and I could not find jobs here because we have been blacklisted in other schools," said the employee who has lost 30 pounds since the strike started.

The striking employees have drawn strength from comforting each other and from the support of their families, friends, union members and students.

In meetings, they shared their problems often bursting into tears when they pour out their frustrations in finding money to buy food and other needs.

"There were times when we lost hope but the support of our friends, priests of the Jaro Archdiocese and students encouraged us," said Merlyn Jara, vice president of the union and the school's guidance counselor for 25 years.

Hermenegildo said he and his wife have vowed to continue to fight for their cause as a couple along with other dismissed employees.

New Army commander has roots in Southern Leyte

By Jani Arnaiz
Maasin City, Southern Leyte

SOUTHERN Leyteños have welcomed the appointment of their provincemate, Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos as the new commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division based in Samar.

For them, "Bonie," as they fondly call Ramos, is an "inspiration" because he did not allow poverty to get in the way of his dreams.

"His being poor [did not become] a hindrance to [success]. He is truly an inspiration. We are very proud of him," said Marta Saludo, his high school teacher at the Saint Joseph College in Maasin City.

Ramos is the eldest among six children of farmers Francisco and Cayetana Ramos in the upland village of Lanoy in Maasin.

His father died when he was 15. To get through high school, Ramos worked as a janitor at the Saint Joseph College where he was also enrolled.

Ramos had to wake up early and walk five kilometers to get to school and do his chores because they did not have the money to pay for fare.

Still, he graduated among the top 10 students in his class. He also showed the quality of being a good leader.

"Even if he was a working student, he could easily lead a group or two. He was humble, very respectful and industrious," Saludo recalled.

But she said Ramos was not able to attend his graduation because he had to leave for studies at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

On Aug. 28, Ramos formally took over as head of the 8th ID, the third commanding general of the division who had their roots in Maasin and Southern Leyte.

The first was Gen. Isagani de los Santos, a native of Maasin City who was 8th ID chief in 1990s. Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Ramos' predecessor, was from Malitbog town in Southern Leyte.

Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado said Ramos was an "excellent choice" to head the 8th ID because being a native of Southern Leyte, the general understood the needs, customs, culture and tradition of the people in Eastern Visayas. "I know he can deliver results beneficial to our people and country with dispatch," said Mercado.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias, also welcomed the appointment of Ramos, although she was also for the retention of Palparan who had been transferred as 7th ID chief in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

She said the appointment of Ramos was a natural choice because he had served as Palparan's deputy. "And besides, Ramos who hails from the region knows the sentiments of the people. He can do the job as well," he said.

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500 mayors declare war on 'jueteng'

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—More than 500 mayors signed a covenant to wage war on *jueteng* at a meeting here of two groups of local officials that was called to put together a more forceful plan to put a stop to illegal gambling.

The mayors signed the covenant after a two-hour deliberation during the League of Cities of the Philippines Luzon Island Conference here.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as National Anti-Jueteng Task Force Czar, expressed satisfaction over the mayors' cooperation to eradicate *jueteng* all over the country.

"All the mayors present gave their commitment," he said.

The 30 chapter presidents, Hagedorn said, assured him that their respective members—there are 10 to 15 members in every chapter of the LMP—would support the campaign to the fullest.

"[If you multiply] 30 signatures [by 10], you have around 300 mayors who will support our drive," he added.

LMP national president Mayor Ramon Guico of Pangasinan also lauded the efforts of Hagedorn in his anti-jueteng drive, which drew the LMP conference here.

"We were supposed to hold our Luzon Island Conference in Bohol but Mayor Hagedorn approached me and said he wanted to talk with the municipal mayors regarding *jueteng*, so we moved the venue to Puerto Princesa," Guico said.

He said the mayors were willing to stop *jueteng* operations if alternative livelihood assistance would be given to people who would be displaced.

Hagedorn said that in Luzon alone, around 550 of the 700 municipalities from Regions I to V and the Cordillera Administrative Region were involved in *jueteng*, "based on research we have done so far."

Being chair of the LCP was the main reason Hagedorn was chosen to head the anti-jueteng campaign.

"[Being] chairman of the LCP, I'll be able to reach out to the local government officials to explain the program of the President [who wants] to stop *jueteng* permanently," he said.

The LCP was also set to sign the same covenant here yesterday during its executive meeting.

In a press conference on Wednesday night, the Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes said the mayors and chiefs of police played a big role in the campaign against *jueteng*.

Reyes said *jueteng* operations would not thrive in an area without the blessings of the mayor.

Hagedorn also said that his self-imposed deadline of Sept. 15 would be met if all mayors would cooperate in the campaign.

"At this moment we are almost finished. We are about to submit our report to the President," he said.

Another problem that should be addressed, Hagedorn said, are the guerrilla-type operations.

"We have to admit that there are people who operate on and off, aside from those who operate betting [stations although] no draws are actually made," he said.

"All in all, we can declare that all 580 mayors in *jueteng*-infested areas are one in eradicating *jueteng*. There is no turning back now," Hagedorn said.

Jueteng thrives in 580 out of 700 municipalities and cities in Luzon.

It is estimated that more than 1 million individuals are involved in or dependent on *jueteng* such as bet collectors, reviewers, revisors and others.

An average of six persons per family or around six million people rely on *jueteng* as an income source.

A large number of those involved or dependent on *jueteng* have been into the job since childhood and have no other skills other than their involvement in the illegal numbers game.

Hagedorn said the mayors would also deal with the possibility of a surge or increase in other illegal activities.

Bolinao picked as 1 of 4 areas in world for coral reef research

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank have chosen this coastal town as one of four areas in the world for coral reef research.

During the consultation workshop held last week at the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) laboratory here, stakeholders of the Lingayen Gulf and scientists from the GEF discussed what kinds of coral research would be pursued to help sustain local coastal resources.

Andre Jon Uychiaoco, project manager of the Sagip Lingayen Gulf, a UPMSI-based non-government organization, said the Bolinao coral reef system represents the situation of the coral reef systems in Southeast Asia so it was selected as one of the research areas under the GEF's Coral Reef Targeted Research (CRTR) and Capacity Building for Management (CBM).

The other research areas are in Australia, Mexico and East Africa, he said.

The GEF scientists, some of them Filipinos, and fishermen in Bolinao, Anda, Alaminos and Bani, all coastal towns in western Pangasinan, agreed in restoring the Bolinao coral reef system which has been degraded because of pollution and illegal fishing.

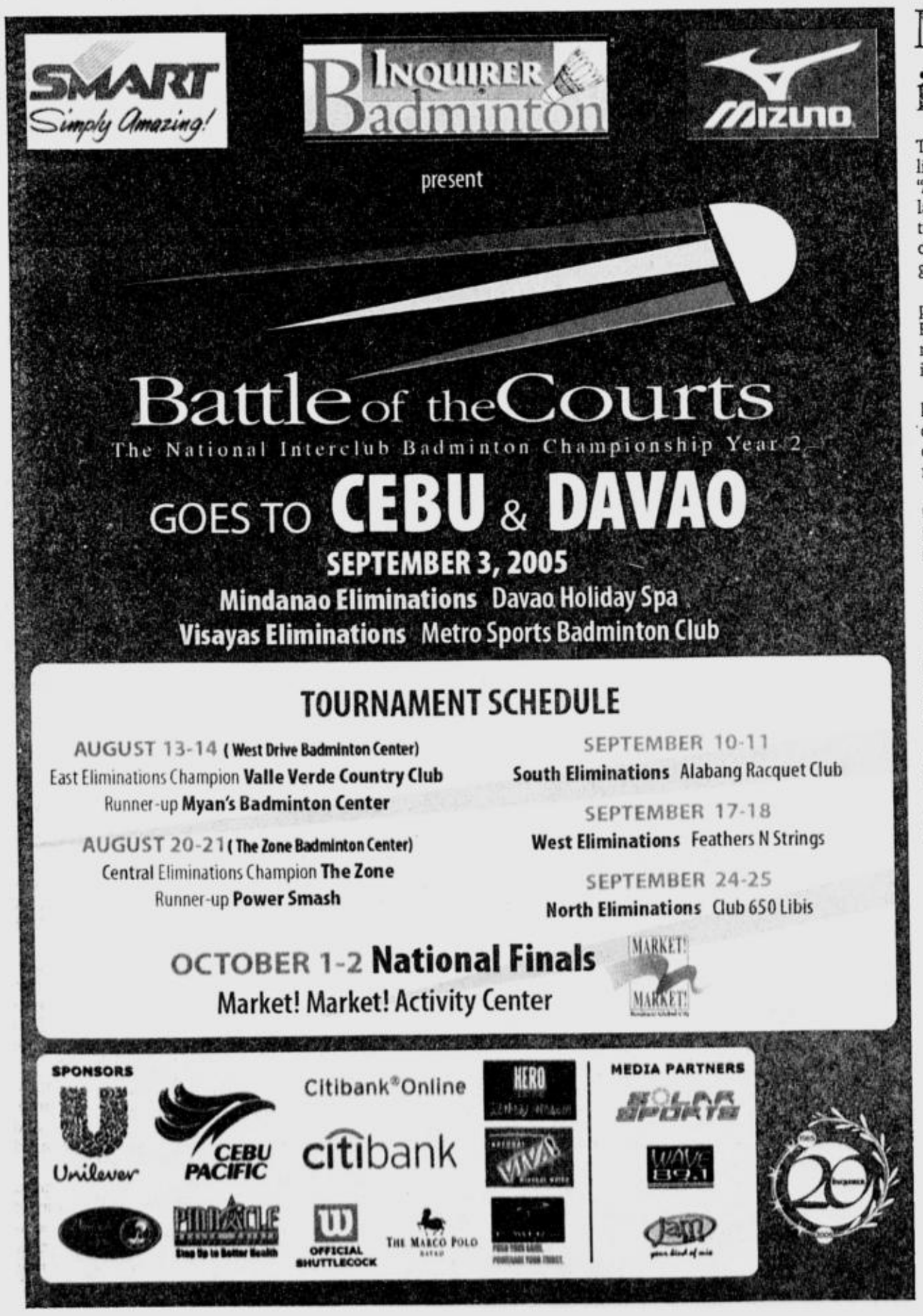
"The fishermen were keen on looking at the effects of pollution and siltation, which were not on the original plan of the scientists," Uychiaoco said.

Among others, the scientists will study the effects of bleaching and global warming on the corals, where to establish marine protected areas, and how to rehabilitate coral reefs.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SUPPORTERS of Governor Maliksi mass in front of the Cavite provincial capitol at the height of the standoff between the governor and his now political arch enemy, his vice governor.

MARLON RAMOS/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU



Maliksi sees dirty tactics in good governance proposal

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—The continuing political squabble between Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi and Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla may not yet see an end as the governor yesterday announced that he was not keen on accepting the so-called 12-point "call for good governance" agenda of his erstwhile ally.

In a news briefing, Maliksi and his 21 department chiefs at the capitol scoffed at Remulla's claims that the provincial government is saddled with graft and corruption and is on the brink of financial collapse.

Last Tuesday, Remulla told the INQUIRER that he was planning to hand Maliksi his proposals during the flag ceremony on Monday to weed out the purported corruption and financial mismanagement at the provincial government.

It was his first day back at his office after the nine-day impasse at the capitol ended after Maliksi won a temporary restraining order on his suspension from the Court of Appeals.

Most of his proposals target cost-reduction measures by immediately downsizing the Cavite local government.

Also included in Remulla's agenda was the realignment of the P9-million budget for Maliksi's 46 consultants and P20 million representation cost of the capitol to the improvement of basic social services.

He said he was willing to refrain from filing other cases against the governor if Maliksi adopted his suggestions.

But Maliksi said he saw no need in undertaking Remulla's proposals "because these have already been in place and were being implemented" under his own 12-point "development program for the province of Cavite."

He said Remulla's apparent ignorance of his administration's programs only proved that the vice governor "is not cooperating with me and the provincial government."

"I've waited long enough for his suggestions for us to serve our constituents better. But it seems that he doesn't know what's happening at the capitol [because] he never participated in our programs," Maliksi said.

Asked if he would still accept Remulla's propositions, he said: "*Bakit ko pa tatanggapin eh alam ko na ang mga yun* (Why should I when I already know them)."

Despite this, Remulla said he would still pursue his plan to meet with Maliksi and tender his proposals.

"[If he refuses to accept it], people will only see how recalcitrant he is regarding the changes at the capitol. I will never close my door to reconciliation," Remulla said in a phone interview.

Maliksi also downplayed Remulla's assertions that he drafted his proposal "for the sake of good governance" and not for personal reasons.

He said Remulla may have forgotten that he himself is facing graft charges involving a P100-million computerization project almost five years ago.

Provincial treasurer Leonor Villalobos debunked Remulla's claim that the capitol has a P500-million deficit.

As of June this year, the capitol has spent P411 million from their total collection of P590 million, she said. *Marlon Ramos, Southern Luzon Bureau*

Outgoing CA justice bats for Cha-cha

BAGUIO CITY—Outgoing Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Romeo Brawner threw his hat behind President Macapagal-Arroyo when he urged Congress to start the process of constitutional amendments.

The President pushed for Charter reforms during her State of the Nation Address, but Congress has yet to tackle a House committee report endorsing Charter change because of a standoff on three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

"I believe that the call of the President to effect changes to the fundamental law deserves the serious consideration of every leader, both local and national," Brawner said when he addressed Baguio's 96th Charter anniversary program on Thursday.

Brawner said empowering local governments with true autonomy through a new constitution is the only way people can survive the economic and energy crises.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, vice chair of the House committee on constitutional reforms, said the committee report has been transmitted for plenary discussions but it has yet to find a discussion schedule due to the deliberations on the impeachment complaints.

"Every locality needs governance that is responsive to their unique lives ...," Brawner said.

"One way for us to undertake this is to push for an agenda of local autonomy ..."

Brawner, who will leave the CA on Sept. 17, said he expects flak for declaring his support for Charter change.

He told reporters that he has accepted Ms Arroyo's offer for him to replace former Commission on Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Question of the Week

Choose one: (1) President Arroyo should be impeached; (2) Impeachment process will not succeed, street protests should oust President; or, (3) President Arroyo is doing fine and should complete her term. (Pls. explain vote)

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Plan to pull out troops from Boracay questioned

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Army's 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) is opposing the plan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to pull out its troops stationed on Boracay Island.

Maj. Lyndon Sollesta, 3ID spokesperson, said the division was appealing to the AFP's Central Command (Centcom) based in Cebu City to reconsider its plan to transfer a platoon of around 30 soldiers from the island-resort to areas were communist rebels are active.

Centcom's area of operations includes the whole of the Visayas and Masbate.

Sollesta said that while he agrees with the intention of the redeployment of the troops, Centcom should consider the security implications of the pullout.

Risks

He said the 3ID would not risk the security of tourists in Boracay amid the recent bombing of a passenger boat at the Lamitan Port in Basilan and the continued threats posed by the Abu Sayyaf.

Boracay continues to be the country's top tourist-drawer with 428,755 visitors last year and earning P7.88 billion.

Centcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Jefferson Omandam said in a phone interview that the planned pullout is part of Centcom's focus on internal security operations against New People's Army (NPA) rebels.

He said the security of the island can already be handled by the local police force. Soldiers belonging to the 47th Infantry Battalion (47IB) were sent to Boracay at the height of terror attacks and after the kidnapping of foreigners by the Abu Sayyaf.

Sollesta said the division will abide by the decision of the Centcom but will compensate for the removal of the soldiers by intensifying intelligence operations on the island and through the support of soldiers stationed on the Aklan mainland.

But he said the pullout of the Army platoon will not significantly increase the strength of the Army's Task Force Panay for its operations.

TFP, that is in charge of internal security operations on Panay Island, has the 47IB, 12IB and three reconnaissance companies under its command. Sollesta said TFP has "enough troops to address the insurgency situation in (Panay)."

He said the division would also abide by the presidential directive to ensure the protection of the island.

Aklan Gov. Carlito Marquez said the plan is "untimely" considering the recent bombing in Basilan.

"We must be pro-active and the soldiers right now serve as a deterrent to any threats," Marquez said in a telephone interview.

ANSWER TO CRISIS

Incoming CBCP head urges day of prayer

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Amid the raging controversy on the impeachment proceedings in Congress, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo has called on the archdiocese's clergy and his flock to join a national day of prayer and penance on Sept. 12, the feast of the Virgin Mary.

Lagdameo, incoming president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said the day of prayer is part of the CBCP's declaration of Sept. 12 as a "Day of Conversion, Reparation and Consecration."

He urged the clergy and flock to "pray that in our country there may be credibility, sincerity, integrity, honesty of people in governance."

Working together

"Let us pray that the competing political forces may give priority to working together for our economic progress (medicine, food, employment, housing, education) over their conflicting political agenda," Lagdameo said in a circular to the clergy and the Religious and Marian Association Movements and Organizations (Mamos) under the Jaro Archdiocese.

He earlier said the impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo should continue "no matter how painful they may be."

The CBCP has not supported the call for Ms Arroyo to resign but it said the President should not simply dismiss the call for her to step down.

It also said the filing of an impeachment case against the chief executive "is not against the Gospel."

Lagdameo said in his circular dated Aug. 22 that the "greatest obstacle to economic progress, the primary reason for the poverty of the majority of our people" is the absence of credibility, sincerity, integrity and honesty of many elected officials.

"The higher is the position of authority, the greater is the moral accountability," the prelate said.

Lagdameo launched early this month a module on the political crisis that would serve as a discussion guide for the laity in analyzing problems, identifying personal and collective responsibilities and coming up with decisions.

The "Discernment Module on the Present Political Crisis" issued by the Jaro Archdiocesan Pastoral Secretariat discusses the current national crisis and the need to restore moral values.

It also presents the moral questions addressed to those in government and the options and solutions being offered by various political groups.

Lagdameo said in the circular that the module would help the people identify how they have contributed to the crisis and how they can improve the situation at their own levels.

He said the rule of law should be upheld. "Let us at all cost reject and avoid the reign of anarchy, chaos, confusion and destabilization."

UNDER THE GUN
Lawmen have tightened security in Kidapawan City following a bomb that went off inside a bakery in Kabacan, North Cotabato on Aug. 29.
JEOFFREY MAITEM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Soil cave-in continues in Bohol village

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The destructive landslides or caving in of soil in Barangay Mayana, Jagna, Bohol continued to destroy houses, crops and infrastructure in the area, almost two months since it started on July 11.

The cave-in has affected 70 hectares, which is about a third of the land area of Mayana, and the damage was estimated to be over P15 million, according to Jagna Mayor Exutero Lloren.

Lloren said the massive soil slides has already destroyed 69 houses, corn fields, rice fields, coconut and banana plantations, vegetable farms, the village's water reservoir and the national road leading to other towns.

At least 174 families have been dislocated by the landslides, most of whom opted to stay with relatives or have constructed small shanties in safe places, the mayor said.

Lloren said some families also face a water shortage because a portion of the Mayana River, where residents used to take their bath or do their laundry, has been covered with the eroded soil.

Lloren said the national road going to Sierra Bullones town is no longer passable because of the heavy damage.

The mayor said that a three-man team of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who inspected Mayana last Wednesday told him that it would take about a year before the soil stabilizes.

Lloren said the National Disaster and Coordinating Council (NDCC), in coordination with Gawad Kalinga, had agreed to construct at least 60 housing units in Barangay Mayana after they can find a safe relocation site.

Governor cites study saying Lingayen Gulf dying

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Despite efforts to rehabilitate the Lingayen Gulf, fish catch from this traditional fishing ground continues on its downward trend because of illegal fishing and weak law enforcement.

Gov. Victor Agbayani said fish catch has decreased by 50 percent since the 1980s, based on a study on the status of the Lingayen Gulf fisheries.

He said illegal fishing methods, both by commercial and municipal fishers, have taken their toll on the environmentally-critical body of water.

"Licensed commercial fishing boats are reported to be using fine-mesh nets which catch even small fishes. The boats are also reported to be encroaching on municipal waters," he said.

(Municipal waters cover 15 kilometers from the shore inward the sea and are off-limits to commercial fishing).

Municipal fishermen, who have increased in number through the years, are also guilty of illegal fishing through the use of improvised dynamite.

"Illegal fishing methods are more efficient (way to catch fish) but they destroy the marine resources," Agbayani said.

Commercial fishers wanted to encroach in the municipal waters, saying there were no fish to catch in the commercial waters. But municipal fishers objected because this would further deplete the marine resources in the area.

The provincial government is considering the creation of a task force to implement the fishery laws, Agbayani said.

He also said fishermen in western Pangasinan are trying their best to help regenerate the marine resources in the gulf.

With the help of the local governments and the Sagip Lingayen Gulf Foundation, the fishermen of the towns of Anda, Bolinao and Bani and Alaminos City have established several marine protected areas (MPAs) which are inaccessible to fishing to revitalize fish and other resources.

"We hope other towns will follow suit," Agbayani said.

But Dr. Andre Jon Uychiaoco, project manager of Sagip Lingayen Gulf, said the MPAs can only do so much and that effective law enforcement is needed if the gulf is to rehabilitate.

If environmental scientists are to be believed, at least 50 percent of the Lingayen Gulf must be closed to fishing for several years to rehabilitate its resources.

But Uychiaoco said this would be next to impossible because of the number of fishermen dependent on the gulf. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mayor, residents drawn to battle of maps

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOKOD, Benguet—Mayor Raymundo Celino may yet find himself in a battle of maps against his constituents at Naswak in Barangay Ekip here on the issue of whether the sitio is located in this town or in nearby Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya.

Celino recently earned the ire of Naswak villagers when he declared that their sitio is not within the territorial boundary of this town but was actually a sitio of Barangay Kabayo in Kayapa.

His basis is the town's cadastral map which, he said, clearly showed that Naswak is outside of this town and the province.

No power

Naswak, which has no electricity, is the town's farthest sitio and can be reached after a five-hour hike from the town hall.

Naswak villagers vehemently objected to the mayor's claim, saying that the sitio had long been recognized as a geographical part of the town, a position also taken by the provincial board.

To bolster their claim, the residents also showed a map issued by the National Mapping Resource Information Authority (Namria) in Quezon City.

In a letter of protest filed with the provincial board on Thursday, the residents, led by barangay chair Edward Rafael, said that based on the Namria map, Naswak is well within this town's territorial limit.

Reference

Informed about the protest, Celino said the cadastral survey of the town that showed the boundary of Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya was "the best legal reference."

"Unfortunately, nowhere in the Namria map appears Naswak," he told the INQUIRER. "The Namria map is even an estimate."

Celino admitted that Bokod officials had learned of the Namria map three years ago but he said the map failed to clearly establish that Naswak is within Bokod.

He added that the cadastral map would be a better reference since its descriptions match the forestry map of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The issue of Naswak began in June when it was learned that there were no teachers at the Naswak Elementary School on school opening.

Pullout

Celino said he ordered the pullout of the school's three teachers after Kayapa officials had told him that they wanted to get back Naswak and the school as part of their town.

The move, however, drew flak from the provincial board and the Department of Education of the province.

The mayor said he could have fought for the school's retention with Benguet in a meeting with Kayapa officials but he said none of Naswak's old folks and residents had demanded that they wanted to be with Bokod.

In an Aug. 3 letter to the provincial board, Celino said there is no boundary dispute between Bokod and Kayapa, and between Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya over Naswak.

He said he should not be accused of arbitrarily turning over Naswak to Kayapa since he could not turn over to Kayapa what it already owned from the beginning.

Pre-construction works to start for South highway

TOLL operator Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) and its joint venture partner, MTD Manila Expressway Corp., will start pre-construction activities for the South Luzon Expressway rehabilitation, expansion and extension project (SLEx Project).

It is a flagship program projected to propel the economic and industrial growth of Southern Tagalog.

In a statement, the PNCC said following international standards in road construction technology, international engineering consultant Scott Wilson Pavement Engineering Sdn. Bhd. (SWPE) and Renardet SA Consulting Engineers, were engaged to conduct a series of pavement testings and investigation along the Alabang-Calamba Stretch of the SLEx prior to full-scale rehabilitation and expansion.

"Even prior to the approval of the Supplemental Toll Operations Agreement (STOA) by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the SLEx project team will begin with the technical testing of existing condition of the road," said Abraham Sales, head of the PNCC Construction Management Division.

According to Sales, the pavement evaluation and design works, which will take six weeks to complete, would have an effect on traffic flow along this major road artery to South Luzon.

He, however, said that measures to mitigate traffic problems are already in place and that the motoring public need not worry.

"The field works, which started last Aug. 30, may cause some traffic disruption but it is necessary to ensure proper pavement design," Sales said, adding that the PNCC is set to undertake traffic mitigation measures.

The SLEx Project is a joint venture undertaking of the PNCC and MTD Manila Expressway Corp.

The project involves the rehabilitation of the Alabang Viaduct (Toll Road 1) in Muntinlupa City; the widening and rehabilitation of the portion from Alabang to Calamba, Laguna (Toll Road 2).

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DEEP IN CARAMOAN

19th century Spanish gunboat discovered

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CARAMOAN, Camarines Sur—A 19th century Spanish gunboat wreck has been discovered last week off the coast of this town when a team of divers assessing the coastal environment here accidentally stumbled on it.

Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte said the wreckage, believed to be that of the Spanish gunboat Elcano, was detected submerged through a sound-tracking device at 8 to 44 meters deep.

Villafuerte said the team of divers lead by marine biologist Dr. Antonio Mines were scouring the waters off the coast of Cabacogan, Caramoan when the shipwreck appeared on the radar screen.

"It was an amazing find. Its historical value could be enormous that might lead to the discovery of several unknown details of what a Spanish gunboat was and the war materiel of that period," he said.

Villafuerte said follow-up exploration shall be conducted to further authenticate, assess, protect and preserve artifacts that could still be salvaged from the wreckage.

He said some locals have told them that unidentified persons have dived in the area and may have taken some artifacts before his team of divers discovered it on Aug. 24.

Citing historical records, Bicol historian Prof. Danilo Gerona revealed that the gunboat Elcano had been around the Bicol area in the late 1898.

Gerona said the gunboat was sent to Bicol by the Spanish colonial government to thwart the advance of the revolution here.

He said that on Nov. 7, 1898, the gunboats Elcano and Paragua entered Sorsogon Bay in search of ships flying insurgent flags.

While entering Sorsogon Bay, Gerona said, an English subject and a resident of Sorsogon town only identified as a Mr. Gibson made an inquiry about the intention of the two Spanish gunboats.

The Bicol historian said Gibson sent a messenger boat bearing white flag and was told by Spanish officers that they came to capture the insurgent ships reported anchored by the bay.

He said that when they were told that the insurgent ships have left, the Spaniards fired seven cannon shots toward the town of Sorsogon.

Gerona said that the gunboats Elcano and Paragua then veered toward the adjoining town of Casiguran and fired three more shots.

But he said no damage was recorded either in Sorsogon or Casiguran.

Gerona said historical records accounted that the two Spanish gunboats headed to Burias Pass after failing to capture the insurgent ships.

Mines said the shipwreck that seemed to have been cannibalized half of what remained of it measures 15 meters wide and six meters high.

He said it settled some 750 meters off the Lingatin Peak near a sharp drop in the ocean floor.

ROUNDUP

6 youths nabbed for posters

ANGELES CITY—Six members of the youth group Anakbayan were arrested by the police here for putting up antigovernment posters and painting slogans along the Abacan Bridge on Wednesday night. Five policemen from the city police's Station 6 detained Wendy Capili, Jay Cruz, Stepie Opallas, Noel Ramos, Boy Garcia and Beloy Vera for an hour, but no charges were filed against them. Cruz said one of the policemen "verbally abused and threatened to hurt us while telling us that we will be charged with vandalism and littering." The six Anakbayan members, aged 18 to 26, said the bridge is "traditionally a sort of a freedom wall" for activists since the 1960s. Supt. Ronald de Jesus, city police operations chief, said he had ordered an investigation on the policeman's alleged rough behavior during the group's arrest. Carmelo Verry, barangay captain of Lourdes Sur, sought custody of the six.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Robbers take P1.5M jewelry

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Robbers broke into a pawnshop in Angeles City on Tuesday and took away P1.5 million worth of jewelry. Police said the suspects were members of the Acetylene Gang believed to be responsible for at least 23 pawnshop and bank robberies in Central Luzon in 2004. Reports said the group, composed of three men and a woman, used an acetylene torch in opening the vault of the Dayrit-Rodriguez pawnshop in Barangay Balibago. They gained access by creating a hole at the wall of the apartment next to the pawnshop. One of the suspects, Mary Ann Gonzales alias Janet Caida, rented the apartment, police said.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bus rams tricycle; 2 dead

ILAGAN, Isabela—Two men were killed when the tricycle they were riding in was hit by bus along the national highway in Barangay Alibagu here on Wednesday night. Isabela police director Senior Supt. Percival Barba said Lorivic Baquiran, tricycle driver, and his passenger, Ernesto Baquiran, were killed when a Metro Manila-bound EMC bus rammed their vehicle. Maximino Javier, the bus driver, told the police that he failed to notice the tricycle as its headlight was turned off. In a separate accident earlier Wednesday, 15 people were hurt when an Isuzu dump truck hit 10 tricycles parked in front of the Baligatan public market here. Driver Benjamin Tan said he lost control of the truck's steering wheel, causing the vehicle to swerve and hit the tricycles.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 slain in grenade blast

SAN JOSE CITY—Two persons were killed while at least nine others were hurt when three men lobbed a grenade at a house in Barangay Sto. Niño here on Wednesday night, police said. Nueva Ecija police director Senior Supt. Alex Monteagudo said the incident was not a terrorist attack. "This cannot be one because initial investigation showed that it was motivated by a grudge [against] the family of a certain Bonifacio Balones," Monteagudo said. It was in the house of the Soliven family, a neighbor of Balones in Sitio Habitat, where the grenade exploded, said Supt. Antonio Adawag, city police director. Adawag identified the fatalities as Rodolfo Pante, 70, and Jomar Tudla, 21. Nine people were hurt and taken to a hospital in Cabanatuan City. The victims were neighbors of Balones. Adawag said many were hurt because houses in the area are clustered.

Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ex-mayor acquitted

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Sandiganbayan first division acquitted a former town mayor of charges of illegal use of public funds for lack of evidence. "What a relief!" said former Mayor Jeceju Mana-ay of Bindoy town after hearing the decision promulgated on Aug. 2. Mana-ay was accused of illegally using public funds for spending P436,000 from the calamity fund without a resolution from the municipal council in 1995. The disbursement was used to buy medicine, food and supplies and to give cash assistance to residents of six mountain barangays who evacuated for fear of being caught in crossfire between communist rebels and Army troops. The Sandiganbayan's deliberations centered on whether the disbursement was consistent with the purpose for which the fund was created under the Local Government Code which specified that its use be limited to areas declared by the President as a calamity area. While no such declaration was made at that time, the anti-graft court said the disbursement was cleared by pre-audit and post-audit of the Commission on Audit.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

8th most wanted nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—After six months in hiding, a murder suspect listed as the eighth most wanted man in Batangas was collared by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Sto. Tomas, Batangas on Wednesday. Supt. Gil Lebin, CIDG-Calabarzon director, said suspect Rainier Pelagio, 37, was arrested while visiting his family at their residence in Barangay San Luis at around 4:30 p.m. He said the suspect's arrest was based on the warrant issued by Judge Arcadio Manigbas of the Tanauan City Regional Trial Court.

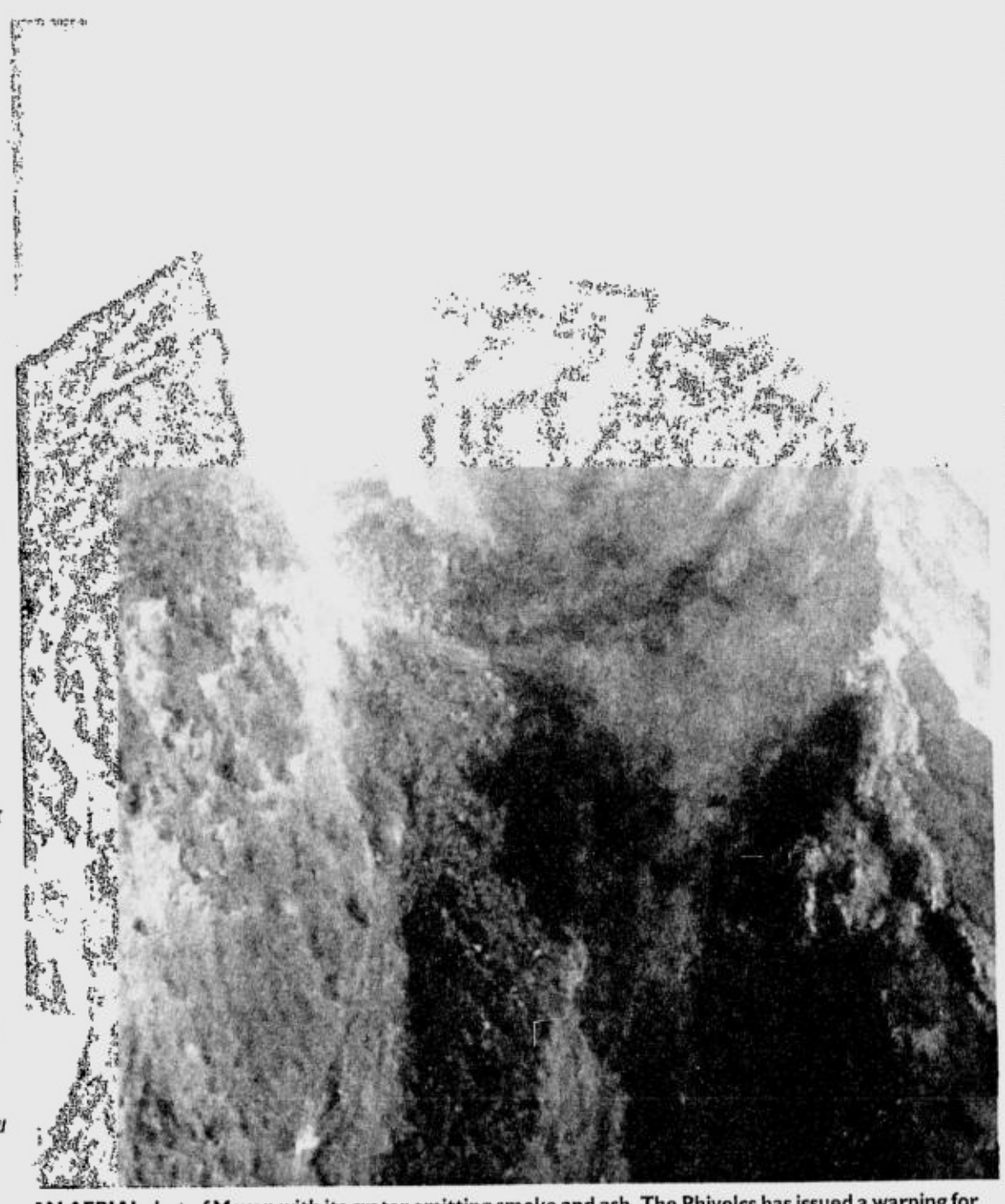
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

T. Ponte; 80

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Teodoro Digal Ponte, 80, father of Southern Luzon Bureau correspondent and Catholic cleric Fr. Romulo O. Ponte, died at about 3 a.m. on Wednesday due to heart, liver and kidney failures, attending physicians of the Maria Reyna Hospital here said. Ponte's remains lie at the Green Hills Memorial Homes, near Xavier University, in Cagayan de Oro City. Interment will be at the Green Hills Memorial Gardens following the Funeral Mass at 9 a.m. at the Green Hills Chapel today. Ponte and his widow, Francisca Odchigue, 78, had just celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last April 16.

I. Damaso Sr.; 83

IBARRA Damaso Sr., 83, of San Juan, Batangas and Manila died Aug. 31. He will be interred today at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque. He was a two-term councilor of San Juan, educator and author of the book "A Brief History of San Juan."



AN AERIAL shot of Mayon with its crater emitting smoke and ash. The Phivolcs has issued a warning for the volcano's possible eruption and warned the public against straying into the permanent danger zone that was defined as areas near the volcano that would suffer most in case of an eruption. PHIVOLCS PHOTO

Albay safety office warns of Mayon eruption, urges people to prepare

LEGAZPI CITY—The Albay Provincial Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (PSEMO) has warned the public to stay away from the six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) of Mayon following a report on Thursday of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology on the possible major eruption of the volcano.

Cedric Daep, PSEMO chief, said residents within the PDZ must not take the warning for granted.

Daep also warned mountaineers and firewood gatherers to refrain from entering the PDZ.

Ed Laguerta, resident volcanologist, said that although at present the volume of lava pile at the crater was still small enough, he warned that once the crater was filled up, lava will spill into the lower portion of the crater rim facing the southeast side of the mountain.

Lava dome

He said the growth of a lava dome also increases its instability, which might result in crater collapse and consequent pyroclastic flows.

Laguerta said bursts of lava are sporadic and small explosions could affect the PDZ.

"This latest episode of lava accumulation indicates a phase of low-level magmatic activity with two general scenarios. One is that the Mayon magma system is reactivating, which could lead to another round of major eruptions, and the second possibility is that Mayon is merely on a recharging mode and that major explosive eruptions are some years away," the Phivolcs said.

Alert level

Phivolcs has maintained the alert level 2 status of Mount Mayon.

The advisory came following the aerial survey jointly conducted by PSEMO and Phivolcs officials last Aug. 17.

Laguerta said the usual bowl-like situation of the crater floor is now occupied by a lava pile, which came from the slow outside flow of magma following the string of ash explosions that occurred between March and May in 2003.

Daep warned all the counterparts of his office in the municipalities and cities around Mount Mayon to be always prepared.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hurt eagle rescued, sent to sanctuary

DAVAO CITY—A wounded adult Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) was rescued by a tribal chieftain in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Aug. 17.

Datu Sultan Sinangayan confiscated the bird from another tribe member and immediately brought it to environment officials in Tacurong City.

The 4.5-kilogram eagle has a gunshot wound in the left side of the neck.

It was turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) on Thursday last week by officials of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of Tacurong City.

During check-up at the eagle center in Malagos, PEF veterinarian Dr. Rheyda Hinlo said the wounded eagle remains in good condition despite its wound.

She said that X-ray examinations showed there were no abnormalities and embedded bullets in the eagle's body.

Recovery

"We're glad that the eagle looks like it's going to recover. Still, this incident is evidence of the sad fact that the hunting of eagles continues and that has got to change," PEF executive director Dennis Salvador said.

The PEF said based on information gathered by its field researchers, there were actually two eagles reported to have been shot in the area.

While expressing sadness in the hunting of the eagles, Salvador said "the incident also showed there is a growing number of people like Datu Sinangayan who recognize the value of the Philippine eagle and are helping the country by protecting its wildlife and natural resources."

"They're providing the cue for everyone to follow," he said.

The Isulan eagle will be monitored in the next few days while it recovers at the center.

But the PEF said releasing it back to its natural home is unlikely.

Breeding program

"The eagle is being considered for inclusion in the conservation breeding program at the PEF's Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City," Salvador said.

Meanwhile, world-renowned Austrian optics company Swarovski Optik has joined the growing number of big companies supporting preservation efforts for the endangered Philippine eagle.

The PEF said that the firm donated "top of the line" field telescopes and binoculars for use in its field research.

The PEF said that top officials of Swarovski Optik have also visited Barangay Cabuaya here, where a Philippine eagle family was discovered in March this year.

PEF's field biologist, Camille Conception, received the donation on behalf of the foundation.

Donated to the foundation are two field scopes with fix tripod and five binoculars.

"It was Dr. Gerold Dobler's visit to the PEF study site in Mati that inspired him to donate," Tatit Quiblat, PEF communications officer, told the INQUIRER.

Dobler is product manager of Swarovski.

Dobler visited Mati in May along with Australian bird expert Dr. Bill Clark. *Joselle Badilla and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Expropriation planned for P21-B road project

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) would be forced to seize land in favor of the government if landowners continue to refuse to give right-of-way (ROW) to the P21-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, BCDA Chair Narciso Abaya said on Wednesday.

Abaya issued the warning as the project, began in April this year, started encountering problems in the acquisition of ROW. President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted the expressway completed by December 2007.

Abaya said the ROW is the counterpart of the government in the project funded by a low-interest loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

For the four-lane infrastructure, the BCDA needs to have access to 60 meters of land at every stretch of the 93.7 km road.

"One of the powers of the BCDA is to do expropriations. Initially, the preferred option is to negotiate with owners. If not, we will exercise that power," Abaya told reporters here.

He declined to tell the amount set aside for ROW payments, citing land pricing speculations prevalent now along the western Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac routes of the project.

The project's contractors, the Japanese firms Kajima and Hasama, have begun clearing and alignment works.

Abaya also said the BCDA could not enter into a deal where the Pampanga provincial government would supply sand as counterpart for the cost of building a road and exit gate along the Porac stretch of the expressway.

Abaya cited a restriction in the contracts of its contractors.

"[The contractors] are supposed to buy the sand and other filling materials, not us," he said. "We don't have a hand in the contracts."

Pampanga, according to Gov. Mark Lapid, would have to tap other fund sources to build the 6-km road and exit gate.

Abaya said to build the Porac interchange, which was scrapped due to budget limitations, the BCDA would have to spend P300 million.

Lapid has requested a simple interchange with a gate so eastern Pampanga towns would also benefit from the commerce and tourism that the expressway was expected to spur in Central Luzon.

Lapid said the two exits, which are available only in Dinalupihan, Bataan, and at the Tarlac boundary of Mabalacat, Pampanga, would practically skip the rest of Pampanga.

The BCDA, though, has committed to acquire the ROW for the Porac road and exit, Abaya said.

Army troops, he said, have secured the project's route to prevent attempts by communist rebels to disrupt the project.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Judge orders drug case suspect back in jail

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A MAKATI Regional Trial Court judge has ordered the immediate arrest of a Pakistani who was released on bail even if a large volume of dangerous drugs was found recently inside his home.

Judge Salvador Abad Santos of Makati RTC Branch 65 canceled the P75,000 bail allowing the release of Salim Shehzad Khan, 47, of 9202B Catmon St., San Antonio Village, Makati City last Aug. 16, according to National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda.

NBI-STF agents arrested Khan early last month and confiscated more than two kilos of Stilnox, 170 grams of Valium and five grams of Mogadon in his house.

"Khan's offense is non-bailable because mere possession of 10 grams of Stilnox or Valium is punishable by life imprisonment to death," Esmeralda said, citing the provisions of Republic Act 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Esmeralda said third Assistant City Prosecutor Hannibal Santillan had recommended a bail of P200,000 for the suspect after he was brought to the Makati City Prosecutor's Office for inquest proceedings.

Without the NBI-STF's knowledge, Khan had filed an ex-parte motion to reduce the bail in Abad Santos' court. The NBI-STF then appealed to Abad Santos to reverse his decision after the judge reduced the recommended bail to P75,000 and ordered Khan's immediate release.

"The efforts exerted by diligent and conscientious law enforcers in eradicating, if not minimizing, the social decay caused by drug syndicates would be put at naught if the accused would be granted bail in total defiance of the laws as well as the Constitution of our land," the NBI-STF said in their manifestation and motion to cancel the bail bond.

Esmeralda said Abad Santos then canceled the bail bond last Wednesday and ordered Khan's immediate arrest.

The NBI-STF chief said they had requested the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold departure order against the suspect.

Esmeralda added that Pakistani Sami Amanullah, who was also arrested for possessing the same drugs, but in lesser volume, is still detained at the Parañaque City Jail.

Tax official faces probe

By Nancy C. Carvajal, Margaux C. Ortiz and DJ Yap

CALOOCAN City Mayor Enrico Echeverri said yesterday a task force was investigating the graft charges against the chief of the city's Real Property Tax Divison.

Lawyer Teophanie Sy was charged with violation of the Direct Bribery Act in the Quezon City prosecution office for allegedly asking for P4 million to settle the tax liability of businessman George Goquingco.

Sy and her husband Ariel Reutotar were arrested inside a restaurant on Tomas Morato in Quezon City in an entrapment operation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation Aug. 16. They were brought to the Quezon City prosecutor's office and were released later.

Echeverri did not identify the members of the task force. He said another lawyer from the city's legal department, Phillip Yam, took over Sy's position. The division chief voluntarily went on leave after the incident.

Echeverri said he found it hard to believe Sy would ask for money to reduce Goquingco's tax liability when it was she who increased the city's tax collection.

Sy told INQUIRER she would call back to air her side after consulting her lawyers, but she never returned the call.

Goquingco, president of Arayalandt Manufacturing Corporation, asked the Department of Justice to help speed up the bribery and graft cases he filed against Sy and her husband. He said he was "dismayed" that the suspects were released without posting bail.

Eduarte said chemical examinations found the pair positive for fluorescent powder used in the money Goquingco gave them. "But despite the strong evidence, the two were released," he said.

Quezon City assistant city prosecutor Eduardo Ramon Reyes, meanwhile, declined to comment on the NBI's statements questioning the release, saying it would be improper for him to discuss details of the case.

JUST LIKE MOM
Police Chief Insp. Mercedita Ramos shows off her daughter to guests at the celebration of 11th Annual National Crime Prevention Week in Camp Crame yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

METROBRIEFS

MRT closes doors at 11 p.m.

ANGRY commuters waited in major stations like MRT's Ayala station Thursday night past 11 p.m., not aware that the last train had passed. The reason? Metro railways had shortened anew their recently extended operating hours after finding out that there was no substantial volume of passengers after 11 p.m., according to the Department of Transportation and Communications. But the transport agency failed to notify the public about the shortened schedule which took effect on Sept.1. The DOTC issued a press statement only yesterday, saying the Metro Rail Transit 3, the Light Rail Transit Line 1 and Line 2 had cut their operating hours by 30 minutes to an hour to give railway operators enough time to conduct their daily maintenance checks. MRT 3 runs from North Edsa to Taft Avenue in Baclaran. LRT Line 1 stretches from Monumento, Caloocan to Baclaran while Line 2 runs from Santolan, Pasig to Recto in Manila. MRT 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said that after 11:30 p.m., the trains carry very few passengers. The last MRT 3 train from North Avenue leaves at 10:36 p.m. while the last train from Taft, Baclaran leaves at 11:05 p.m. MRT 3 still opens at 5:30 a.m. Before the DOTC started the midnight run on Aug. 22, it used to close at 10:30 p.m. LRT Line 1 opens at 5 a.m., and the last train from both Baclaran and Monumento leaves at 10:30 p.m. For Line 2, the last train from Santolan, Pasig leaves at 10:30 p.m. while the last train from Recto departs at 11 p.m. The DOTC decided to extend the railway's operations in line with the Arroyo administration's campaign to save fuel. The midnight run also served night shift employees like those working in call centers. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Museum experts to check out Arroceros

THE NATIONAL Museum (NM) will convene an independent panel of experts to assess if the contested Arroceros Forest Park should be declared an "important cultural property." The 2.1-hectare park had been declared an archaeological site by the NM in April 2003. But this time, the new team of experts will focus on the 800 square meters where the proposed two-story teachers' building, a project of the local government, is going to be built, according to NM acting director Cecilio Salcedo. He explained that their decision to consult another team of experts to evaluate the park was not in any way meant to reverse or undermine the findings of the Katipunan ng Arkeologist ng Pilipinas Inc. (KAPI). "We just want them to conduct further studies on the area," Salcedo told INQUIRER. On the other hand, NM director Corazon Alvina added that although they noted and appreciate the study conducted by KAPI, "it has not been proven definitely or unambiguously that there are no more archaeological materials that may be recovered in the site." KAPI, a group of professional archaeologists, rescued artifacts in the area recently. It recommended that a museum, as well as excavated architectural remains, be incorporated in the design of the proposed building. *Tina G. Santos*

Lights on for safety

CITING security reasons, some opposition councilors of Manila want owners of business establishments to install adequate lighting facilities outside their premises. The move came amid calls from local executives to conserve energy in the wake of the looming fuel crisis. Opposition councilors led by Minority Floor Leader Bernie Ang have proposed an ordinance requiring owners of buildings and vacant lots located along major roads and city streets to light up their premises with fluorescent lamps or 40-watt bulbs. The councilors explained that the inadequate lighting was one of the major factors in the rising incidence of criminality as well as accidents in the city. Building owners would be asked to put up lights outside at every corner of their building with the following corresponding wattage: one-story building, 100 watts; two to four story, 200 watts; five to eight story, 500 watts; nine and above, 1,000 watts. Vacant lot owners, on the other hand, would be required to install a lamp post with incandescent lights or 100-watt bulbs. *Tina G. Santos*

Carjackers have new modus operandi

By DJ Yap

A LITTLE after midnight on Aug. 27, businessman Peter Asuncion (not his real name) was driving his Honda Vios along a Quezon City street, when he was blocked by a big, maroon car.

Four heavily armed men got out and introduced themselves as policemen assigned to a mobile checkpoint.

With an Armalite rifle pointed at him, Asuncion transferred to the other car, and was driven to a dark tunnel where they took his wallet, watch, and ATM and credit cards, as well as PIN numbers.

The men got Asuncion's car and other valuables, and an amount he could only describe as "big."

Asuncion is not the only victim. The stories are the same: a small group of burly men brandishing high-powered weapons and introducing themselves as authorities, stop and rob the victims.

Police believe the same group is responsible for a series of carjacking incidents in Quezon City.

The group, said Quezon City Police District Anti-Carnapping Task Force and Unit chief Supt. Ceasar Tannagan, chose expensive cars and struck between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m.

Victims described the suspects as 30 to 45 years old, big, and "military-looking." Their vehicles had sirens and blinkers. Asuncion said they seemed "too disciplined to be ordinary criminals."

QCPD deputy director for operations Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao advised motorists to avoid unlit roads late at night, and should call 117 when a vehicle with sirens tries to stop them.

New Orleans disaster can happen in Camanava, says geologist

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MARINE geologist Kelvin Rodolfo warned yesterday that the devastation brought by hurricane Katrina in New Orleans could be a warning for northern Metro Manila residents.

Rodolfo and Pablo Siringan of the University of the Philippines geology department are protesting a P5-billion flood-control dike meant to protect the area from high tide and floods.

"The plans are grossly inadequate and would endanger the half million people in those cities," Rodolfo said.

He said the situation in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, and Valenzuela and Navotas town was similar to that of New Orleans in the United States.

"New Orleans was protected by very sturdy dikes, but they failed under the attack of storm surges 15 to 30 feet high," Rodolfo said.

He reiterated his observation that the design totally ignored the effects of powerful surges and waves in the Manila Bay area that came with storms.

The project was prepared by the CTI Engineering Co. Ltd, in association with the Nippon Koei Co. Ltd., Woodfields Consultants Inc., Philkoei International Inc. and Pertconsult International for the Department of Public Highways. He said the proposed dike did not stand a chance against storm winds that raised tide levels as much as 80 percent than the usual.

Hypocrisy in condemning gambling

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

HOW CAN the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) reconcile the fact that while it condemns gambling, some of its members and charitable institutions receive money from the government-owned gaming agency, Pagcor?

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez admits that he receives money from Pagcor to fund his charitable projects for the poor.

Several years ago, Caritas, the Archdiocese of Manila's charitable institution, admitted receiving money from Pagcor.

The late Jaime Cardinal Sin said there was nothing wrong receiving money from an agency the local Catholic Church considered evil so long as the money ends up helping the poor.

If gambling and Pagcor are evil, then it follows that the fruits of Pagcor must also be evil. That's the line of argument of the local Catholic Church, not mine.

If that's not sheer hypocrisy, I don't know what is.

* * *

I know a lot of priests who go to alleged 'jueteng' lord Bong Pineda when they renovate their parish churches and have other financial needs.

I also know a lot of priests who come to Manila from the provinces and stay in first class hotels, courtesy of Pagcor.

I don't have to mention their names, but the Catholic Church must know who they are.

And yet, why doesn't the Catholic Church reprimand priests and bishops who receive money from "evil" persons and institutions like Pagcor?

CBCP, you see the mote in other people's eyes but you don't see it in the eyes of your members and subordinates.

* * *

Pope Benedict XVI ordered the Catholic clergy not to meddle in the affairs of government.

But that's precisely what the local priests and bishops are doing to this administration and the previous ones.

What happened to the priestly vow of obedience?

Oh, well, if chastity, the other priestly vow, is not being followed by many clergymen, how much more obedience?

* * *

House of Nincompoops. That should be the name given to those members who talk nonsense and do silly things at the Batasang Pambansa session hall.

Look at that guy they call Congressman "Way Kurat." That's Visayan for fearless.

A person who's fearless, or who doesn't know fear, is stupid because fear is a natural human reaction to danger.

Fearless to do stupid things, that's what.

Congressman "Way Kurat" swept the floor of the Batasan while the impeachment hearing was going on Wednesday.

Naunsa ka man diha, bay? What's the matter with you?

Mr. Congressman, were you elected by your constituents to become a janitor at the Batasan?

* * *

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, the anti-jueteng czar, has proposed the revival of the Small Town Lottery (STL) as a substitute for jueteng, the illegal numbers game.

That's the best solution to get rid of jueteng. It's almost like legalizing jueteng since STL is very similar to jueteng.

We should listen to Hagedorn because he knows whereof he speaks. He used to be a jueteng lord himself.

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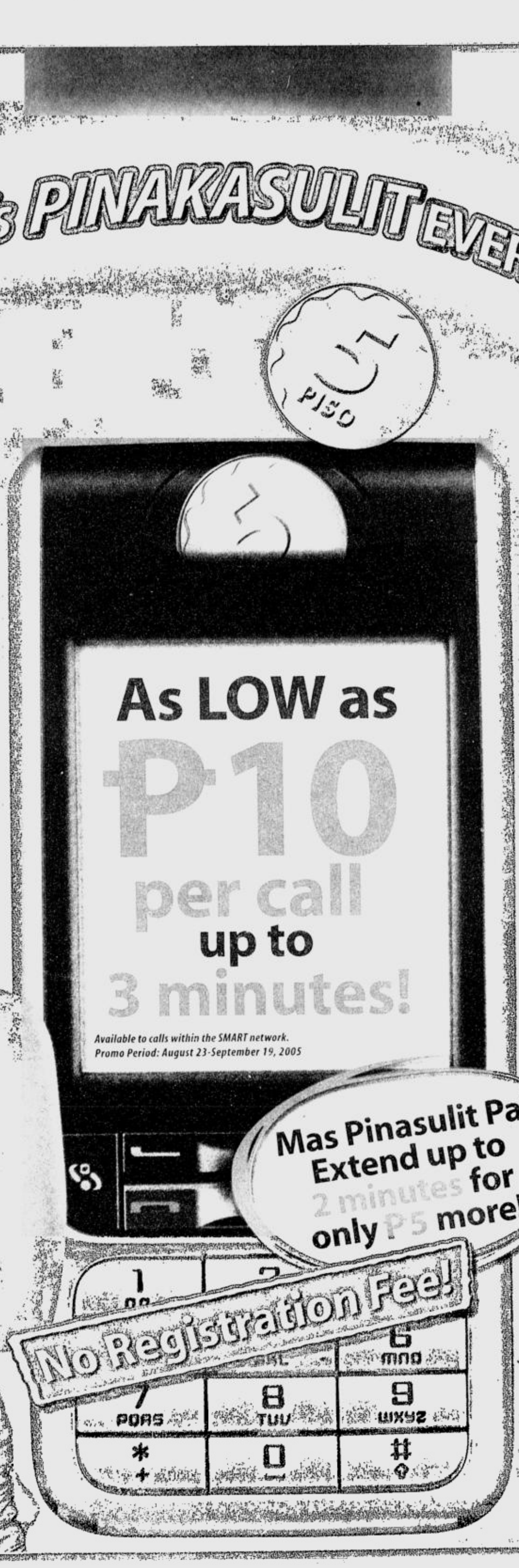

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: 2005 US Open; 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.; Sports Plus—Check out the third round from Flushing Meadows.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Italian Grand Prix Qualifying; 6:57 p.m.; STAR Sports—Racing action continues in Monza.

BASEBALL: MLB—Yankees vs A's; 7 a.m. (r-4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN.

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PETRON

Knights still riding high, sink Dolphins

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE LETRAN Knights underscored their worth as top contenders by turning back the Philippine Christian U Dolphins, 63-59, yesterday at the end of the elimination round in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Aaron Aban scored five of the Knights' last seven points to highlight a balanced offensive by the Letran starters, led by veteran guard Jonathan Aldave.

Center Mark Andaya also delivered one of his finest games this season with 13 points, 11 rebounds and seven blocks.

"I told the players that we have to go to the semis on a winning note," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

FINAL FOUR GAMES FRIDAY
(Cuneta Astrodome)
2 p.m.—PCU vs Mapua (Srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs SSC (Srs)

The league-leading Knights (13-1) clinched the twice-to-beat incentive in the Final Four last week, while the Dolphins (10-4) secured the semifinal bonus only last Wednesday.

The Mapua Cardinals (9-5) took the third spot after posting a 100-72 blowout win over the San Sebastian Stags (7-7) in the earlier game.

The Cardinals settled the game in the opening minutes by zooming to a 21-7 advantage behind rookie Kelvin dela Peña, who shot 12 of his 16 points in the first quarter. Reserve Ian Mazo top-scored with 19 points for the Cardinals.

"We wanted to avoid a playoff (for third against the Stags), so we went out there and played good defense," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim.

The Knights will take on the Stags in the Final Four on Friday, while the Dolphins will battle the Cardinals in the other semifinal pairing.

Aban's layup followed by a split free throw lifted the Knights, 59-57. JP Alcaraz padded the lead to 61-57 even as Dolphins' Jason Castro and Gabby Espinas committed two turnovers in the final minute.

Aban's free throws in the last 13.7 seconds cushioned the Knights' advantage.

Meanwhile, the Nestle NCAA Cheerdance Competition will be held on Wednesday at 2 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

MAPUA 100—Mazo 19, Dela Peña 16, Gonzales 12, Del Rosario 10, Co 8, Sumalinog 8, Veranga 7, Pascual 6, Migraso 6, Malgapo 4, Salud 4, Gorospe 0, Ng 0, Tiongco 0,.

SSC 72—Vicente 21, Najorda 14, Lindaya 13, Viray 8, Juan 5, Tioseco 3, Ballesteros 2, Aguilar 2, De Leon 2, Quiamco 1, Aquino 1, Delgado 0.

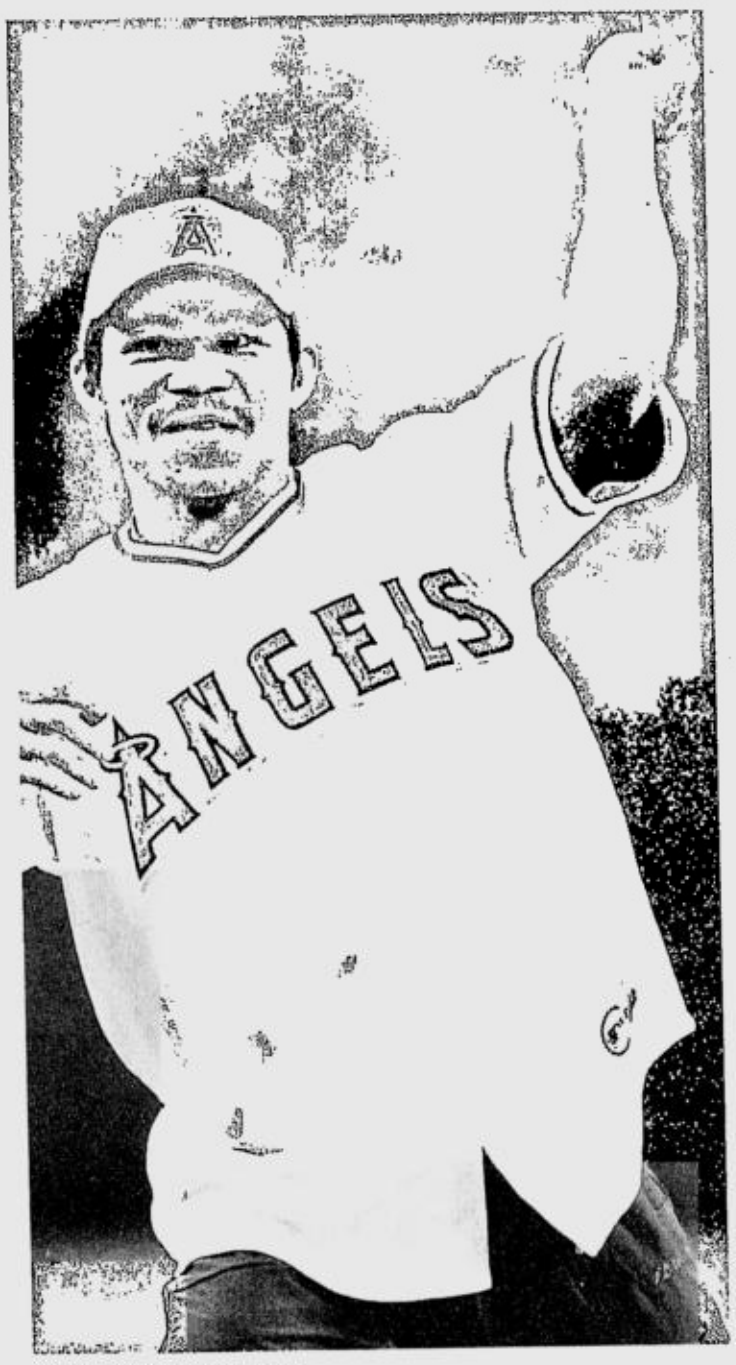
Quarters: 30-15, 54-32, 75-55, 100-72

Second Game (Srs)

LETRAN 63—Aldave 15, Andaya 13, Aban 11, Rodriguez 11, Alcaraz 6, Bautista 5, Piñera 2, Jazul 0, Mondragon 0.

PCU 59—Espinas 24, Castro 15, Belga 7, Amoarado 7, Sanz 4, Santos 2, Cecilia 0, Retaga 0.

Quarters: 15-15, 29-32, 46-44, 63-59



PINOY CELEBRITY

Three-time world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines throws the ceremonial first pitch before the game between the Oakland Athletics and the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, California, on Thursday. The Filipino boxing celebrity's lucky charm rubbed on the division-leading Angels who went on to blank the Athletics, 3-0. REUTERS

No hurry for pool hopes

85 days to go before the 23rd SEA Games

THE PHILIPPINE swimming team, a rich source of gold medals the last time the country hosted the Southeast Asian Games in 1991, seems to be taking its sweet time. With only 85 days to go before the 23rd edition of the biennial Games unfolds in Metro Manila and three other key cities, the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association will still conduct tryouts for the national team on Oct. 11-15 at the Trace Aquatic Center in Los Baños, Laguna. Former Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain won six gold medals in the 1991 Games and much of the country's hopes this year is being pinned on US-based tankers Jackie Pangilinan, Miguel Molina, Miguel Mendoza and JB Walsh.

* * *

THE MEDIA center, which will accommodate hundreds of journalists in the SEAG, will have its dry-run in the second week of October. Located at the Philippine International Convention Center, which also housed the main press center of the 1991 Manila SEAG, the media center for this year's event will have at least 80 personal computers and an unlimited number of phone lines. Each computer will be Internet-ready, assuring reporters easy access to the official website of the Games.

Musong R. Castillo

Panabo edges Cotabato; Minda team formed

By Recah Trinidad

MAGPET, Cotabato—Cotabato province scored a perfect 5-for-5 in the finals but Panabo of Davao del Norte survived the big charge by landing seven gold medals to emerge champion in the 1st Mindanao Invitational Amateur Boxing tournament in this agricultural wonderland Thursday night.

The Panabo gold machine, bankrolled by Rep. Tonyboy Floirendo, thus sustained its reputation as an emerging power in amateur boxing following strong showings in the national junior and Open meets.

With the Panabo and Cotabato teams sharing the bulk of the 14 gold medals staked in the two-category tournament —Youth and Batang Pinoy—Davao City picked a solitary gold through welterweight Mike Mirafuentes, winner by RSC (referee stopped contest) over Jaype Maravilla of Tulunan, to salvage third place in the five-day tilt.

Punctuating Cotabato's challenge was the selection of featherweight gold medalist Rolando Magbanua of Pigcawayan town as tournament best boxer.

NORTH Cotabato's Reynaldo Belandres sets up with a jab against Panabo's Sandro Timothy Buaquin.

Magbanua made it over teammate Reynaldo Belandres of Matalam, gold winner in the lightweight division, after the jury had given them equal votes with the final choice being decided on the quality of the opponent.

North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol announced he is teaming up with Floirendo to form a Mindanao team that will be competing in local and overseas meets.

The team, coming from the top and promising boxers around Mindanao, will be handled by Cuban coach Honorato Espinosa, who is in the country on the sponsorship of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

Leading off the successful gold hunt for Panabo was tiny Mark Anthony Barriga in the no weight (26 kg.) division with a sensational points win over Daryl Besadre of Misamis Oriental.

Panabo's gold medalists: Leonardo Alones, kiddie weight (30 kg) Jerwin Ancajas, minimum weight (34 kg), Aaron Anting, powder weight (36 kg), Vimil de Sabille, light flyweight (48 kg), Fernando Lumacad flyweight (51 kg) and Ronald Virtuzado, bantamweight (54 kg). Cotabato's other gold medalists: Romshaene Sargulla, cotton weight (28 kg), Darwin Jhon Pedregoza ant weight (32 kg) and Romel Asenjo pin weight (45 kgs). Best referee, Eddie Sudario.

Murakami gains 2nd leg of qualifying

ARTEMIO Murakami closed out with a one-under-par 70 yesterday to finish fourth and easily make it to the second stage of qualifying for the rich Japanese PGA Tour.

The 21-year-old Murakami had two birdies and a bogey, winding up with a two-over 215 total after 54 holes at the tough Mission Valley course in Fukuoka. He stood eight shots off winner Shoju Kamii of Japan, who fired another 68 for 207.

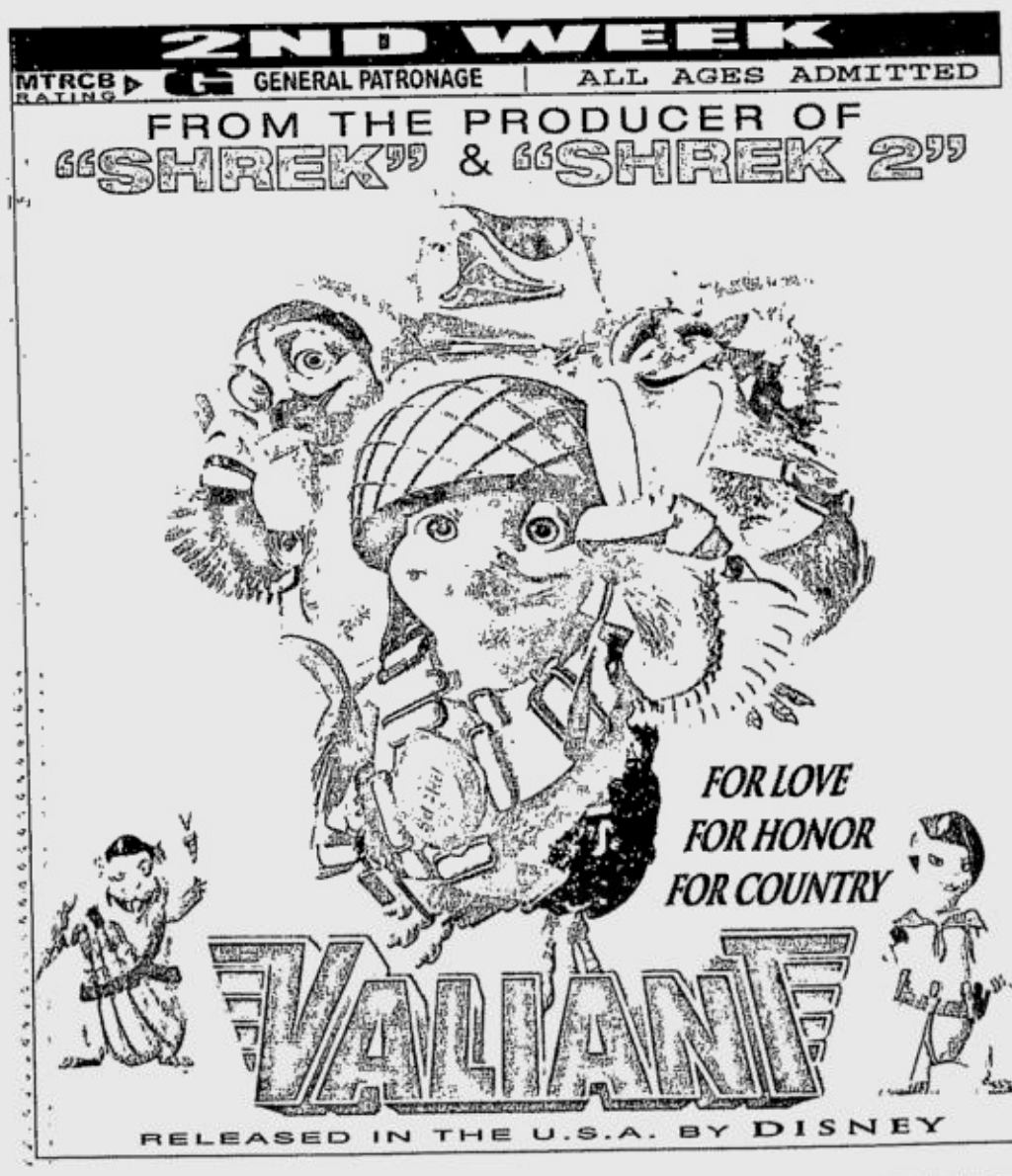
The former winner of the Philippine Amateur as a 15-year-old in 1999, Murakami advanced to the second stage of the gruelling series set in the city of Okayama where he will be joined by Filipino pros Jherome Delariarte and Rey Pagunsan.

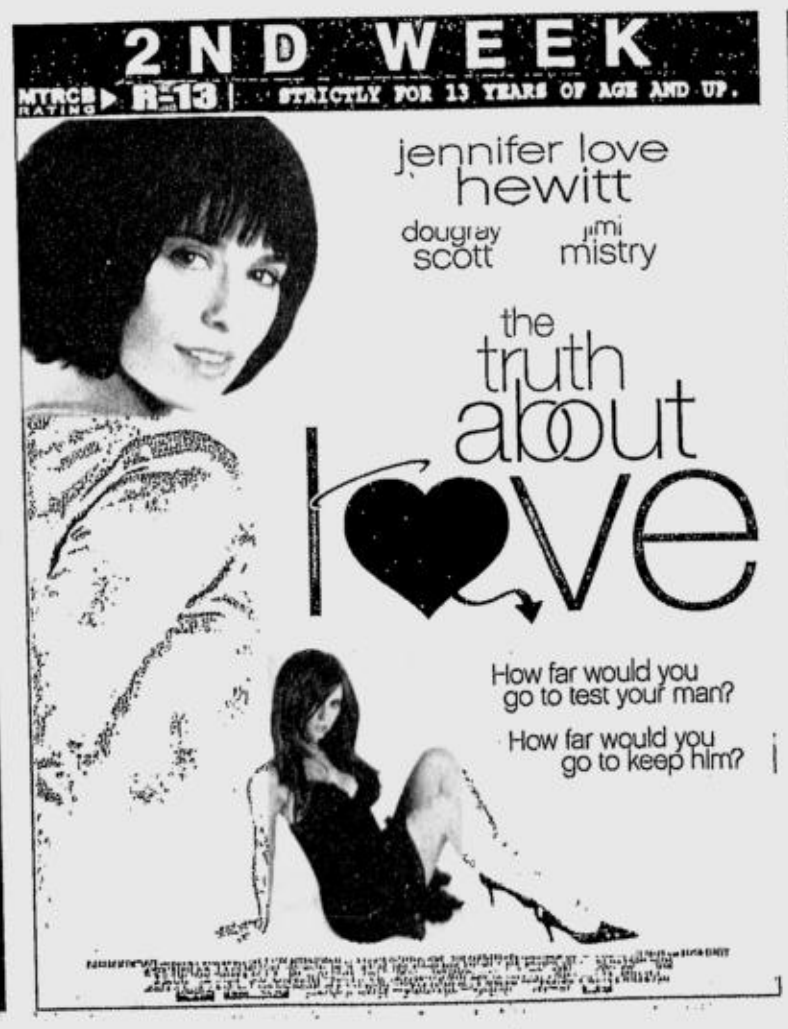
"It has been a tough first stage," Murakami told the INQUIRER in an overseas call.

Qualifying for the Japanese PGA is set for four stages with the final leg to be played in December. If Murakami makes it to the last tournament, the Philippines' No. 2 amateur would miss the 23rd Southeast Asian Games golf tournament set at the Country Club in Canlubang. *Musong R. Castillo*

Baguio five hosts Stars in NBC today

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio Lions host the Cagayan de Oro Stars today at the resumption of the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the University of Baguio gym here. The Stars of former Misamis Oriental governor Antonio Calingin hope to make up for their 91-96 loss to the Iloilo Warriors recently in the 6 p.m. contest. On the other hand, the Lions of Vice Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. will try to improve their 3-8 record in the Northern Conference.





BAP gets its day in court

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I WAS at the Senate last Wednesday for the hearing on the country's SEAG preparations and the raging basketball controversy. Sen. Lito Lapid, chair of the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports, called the hearing with Sen. Jinggoy Estrada presiding. Sen. Pia Cayetano attended.

I arrived a little past 1 p.m., the same time RP coach Chot Reyes strode into the Recto Room, nattily dressed in an outfit that could put a GQ model to shame: Navy blue suit with matching shirt and bright purple necktie. Inside the hall, I immediately spotted the POC's Joey Romasanta and the BAP's Christian Tan cozily huddled in the last row. PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad was seated beside his deputy, Tommy Ong, somewhere in the back row, while the PBA's Willie Marcial and Rickie Santos were seated a few rows closer to the panel.

* * *

For what must have been the umpteenth time, former Sen. Joey Lina narrated the background of the POC-BAP row, which started when the RP team, then represented and sponsored by Cebuana Lhuillier, lost to Anjo Yllana's Parañaque squad, purportedly composed of some movie stars, although none played in that particular game.

Sen. Jinggoy asked POC president Peping Cojuangco if this was a sound basis for scrapping the BAP-formed team. "I am a movie star and I also play basketball. Oftentimes, when the opponent is much stronger than us, *pinapakiusapan namin 'yan* to go easy on us *para hindi naman kami mapahiya sa* fans. *Gawain po namin 'yun, huwag nyong gawing basehan*," Jinggoy said.

Peping said they sought the opinion of an expert—Chot Reyes—and Chot's verdict, according to Peping, was to scrap the old team and form a new one. The POC appointed Chot to do this.

Lina said this could be a dangerous precedent since any coach or team chosen by an NSA could be replaced on the recommendation of anybody deemed by the POC as an expert.

Senator Pia, who is a lawyer and an athlete, also questioned the legality of this move by reading an article from the POC Charter which clearly states the specific functions of the POC in relation to the NSAs. It said that the NSA has the sole authority to select the coaches and the athletes for any particular competition. The POC has no right to encroach on this provision.

* * *

Bottom line, Jinggoy wanted to know if there was still a chance we can have the Fiba ban on RP lifted so we can play in the SEA Games. Jinggoy wanted to know.

Lina said he has been pleading with Peping, practically going down on his knees, because all that is needed for this to happen is for the POC to lift the BAP expulsion. "But my pleas have fallen on deaf ears." Even while the BAP was still suspended, Lina said, the POC was already forming the PBFI to replace the BAP. Lina showed documents to prove his claim. He also questioned the POC's basis for expelling the BAP.

"According to the POC Charter, there are only three grounds for expulsion—nonpayment of Fiba dues, infringement of constitution and by-laws and disbandment of the NSA. The BAP has not committed any of the first two, and the association has not folded up," Joey said.

"Why was the BAP expelled?" Jinggoy turned to Peping.

"If an association refuses to recognize authority, if it refuses to follow norms that have been established, why keep that organization," replied the POC chair as he traced the conflict months back when the BAP, he said, had agreed to the proposal to turn over the selection of all national players and coaches to Chot Reyes. Peping said the BAP agreed to this but later backtracked. For their defiance and intransigence, the BAP was suspended and eventually expelled.

Senator Pia's voice cracked and she was close to tears as she delivered her closing spiel. "Are we prepared to have a SEA Games without basketball? Are we prepared to let foreign officials tell us what to do? Will we allow our athletes to just sit and watch from the gallery instead of fight for the gold? Can we please get our act together... this is so embarrassing... you can make all the press releases... I can't stand another minute in this room!"

While the BAP never got its day in court, it certainly did in the Senate last Wednesday.

Now everybody's asking: "What happens next?"

Jinggoy said the hearing will continue to give everyone a chance to speak. Also present during the hearing were PBA commissioner Noli Eala, the PSC's Butch Ramirez and Mike Keon, Robert Aventajado, Ming and Cristy Ramos, Graham Lim and Moying Martelino.

SMASHING DEBUT: The Philippines' Cherry Rose Macatangay pierces the Hong Kong defense at the start of the 13th Asian Women's Volleyball Championship Thursday in Taicang in China's Jiangsu province. The Filipinos prevailed, 3-0. Twelve teams are vying in the tourney. AP

P450M security budget for SEAG

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALREADY short of cash, the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee has initially recommended a whopping P450-million budget to ensure peace and order for the competition set Nov. 27-Dec. 5 in Metro Manila and four key cities.

This was confirmed by Philsoc secretary general Steve Hontiveros yesterday, although the bowling association president stressed that the final figure will be much lower because many of the facilities and equipment to be used will be borrowed from the different government agencies.

"It was the original proposal," Hontiveros told the INQUIRER. "But definitely, the amount will be reduced considerably and proportionate to the entire budget (about P1 billion)."

He didn't say how much will eventually be spent to implement security measures, even though sources said the amount is currently pegged at P300 million—still a gargantuan part of the whole SEAG kitty.

Hontiveros said the substantial amount allocated for security may create an impression that the Philsoc is taking the threat of terrorism seriously. He said it won't reach P300 million.

"We will be needing support vehicles, radios and other facilities for the security personnel," said Hontiveros.

About 10,000 police and military men will be deployed in Metro Manila, Bacolod City, Subic and Cebu City to ensure the safety of participants and officials from 12 nations.

"We are working out an agreement with government agencies like the DILG to help us beef up the security," said Hontiveros.

The foremost security concern is the opening ceremony slated to be held at the Rizal Park where an estimated crowd of 500,000 is expected to attend.

That alone, sources said, would be a major security headache since the place is open and close to the Embassy of the United States.

Rather than go for a record turnout during the opening ceremony, a Philsoc official who refused to be identified said the wise and economical thing to do is hold the kickoff rites at the Rizal Memorial sports complex.

"Why don't we just give up that record attempt [in live SEAG audience] and hold it at Rizal Memorial track and football stadium which is very easy to secure," he said.

ADIDAS ASIAN STREETBALL

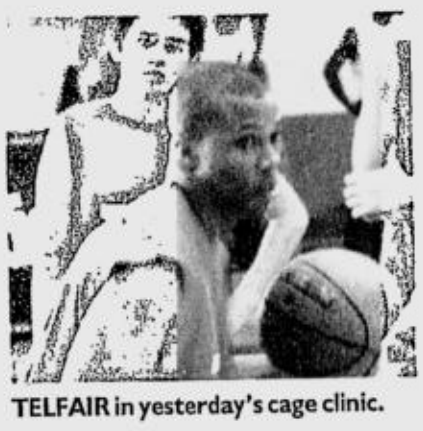
RP cagers debut vs Chinese

IT WILL be an early clash of favorites as the Philippines' boys' and girls' teams collide with China at the start of the 2005 Adidas Asian Streetball finals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

A total of 12 teams from five countries are competing in this three-on-three event, which starts with an opening ceremony at 10 a.m.

Sebastian Telfair of the Portland Trail Blazers, who conducted a clinic yesterday, is the tournament's special guest.

RP Team A, represented by San Beda, is composed of Jay-R Tabanas, Borgie Hermida, Eduardo Tecson and Riego Gamalindo, while West Negros College's Jonblargs Alisbo, Siverino Baclao, Rundy Baydo and Jelmar Padilla make up RP Team B, which drew defending champion South Korea as opponent at 12 noon.



TELFAIR in yesterday's cage clinic.

Chinese-Taipei and Hong Kong collide at 11:30 a.m.

Admission is free.

The RP women's squad A, composed of Holy Angel U's Kathrina Lynne Reyes, Margot Osio, Jessamine de los Reyes, and Leanne Mary Ramirez, battles favorite Chinese-Taipei on Court 2, while the RP Team B, composed of University of Mindanao's Jocelyn Dumasig, Karen Kantaluna, Elvie Salas and Geraldine Villa, tangles with powerhouse China.

The event is co-presented by Globe Gentxt and backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bar, Nissan, Coppertone, Adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, Adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

Bibat turns back Asistio, wins by four

BAGUIO—Michael Bibat was in no mood to give young Tonton Asistio a piece of tournament history, carding a six-under-par 63 yesterday to win the Samsung Amateur Tour's third elimination leg by four strokes at the Camp John Hay here.

As the sun finally came out after three days of continuous rain, Bibat foiled the 16-year-old Asistio's bid to become the youngest winner of a championship division leg with a four-birdie front-nine breakaway.

The 6-foot-2 Bibat, who turns 21 next week, capped his victory with a birdie save on the 16th after hitting the pond. After a penalty drop, he sent a 180-yard 6-iron to within 10 feet of the flag. He birdied the 17th from 50 feet and parred the last hole for a 72-hole total of 12-under 264.

Asistio, one back overnight, trailed by five at the turn and settled for second after a 66-268.

Jun Bernis closed out with 64 to tie for third place with Jay Bayron, who shot a 67, at 270. Marvin Dumandan (70-273) and Jong Laput (68-275) placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

Shean Bedi (75-72-147) nipped Leonard Corpus (78-70-148) in the battle for Class A marred by the disqualification of Ben Liclican. Liclican could have been the easy winner with his rounds of 67-77 but his last day score only had one signature, resulting in his disqualification.

Ranie Carlos (74-76-150) won the Class B title over Emil Alviar (70-81-151).

Shell Superkarting goes to Cebu today

FRESH from a successful Asian Zone stint in Indonesia, the top contenders in the 2005 WG&A-Shell Superkarting Series return to action at the Kart Zone in Cebu on Sept. 3-4.

Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli of Cebu Racing Group may have the homecourt advantage but Asian Karting Queen Michele Bumgarner, who won in Indonesia, has the momentum.

Only 10 points separate the two in the race for the ICA Open crown which Bumgarner leads with 260 points.

Behind them are Indy Villalon (177 points), Marlon Stockinger (118) and Mark Bumgarner (96), who prevailed in the last race at the Enchanted Kingdom.

Guidicelli also eyes a second title in the Rotax Max Seniors class where he expects Stockinger to provide the stiffest challenge.

Joining them in the 16-man field of the series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Honda Phils. Inc., Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Aeromed, Aviva Insurance, 2GO and WG&A Super Ferry are Ivan Carapiet (179 points) Marcel Thenu (154), Maico Angeles (118), Marty Aguilar (115), Mark Bumgarner (104), Allan Uy, Manny Sy, Daniel Cleak, Archie Rubio and JP Carino.

Cebu, Davao b'minton battles get going today

CEBU'S premier clubs dispute the Visayas slot while Davao's top arenas mix it up for the Mindanao ticket in the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-club Badminton Championship Year 2 scheduled today in two venues down south.

Competing for the Cebu leg plum are host Metro Sports Badminton Club, Portside Badminton Plaza and Racquet Zone in a single round-robin affair with the top two teams clashing for the crown.

The same format applies to the three squads vying for the Mindanao eliminations of the national event presented by Smart: Simply Amazing, Mizuno and INQUIRER Badminton. They are host Davao Holiday Spa, Wheels N More and Smashville Davao.

The two winners today will qualify to the national finals of the country's biggest interclub event also supported by Citibank On-Line, Unilever, Cebu Pacific as the official carrier and Wilson as the official shuttlecock.

The other supporters are Pinnacle Health Pointe & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva and Powerade. Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3 are the official media partners. Marco Polo is the official hotel for the Davao leg and Cebu Daily News as sponsor for the Cebu stage.

The members of the winning teams from Cebu and Davao will be flown to Manila by Cebu Pacific on board its new Airbus 320 fleet.

Milo Marathon Caraga leg kicks off tomorrow

DEFENDING champion Genovevo Azarcon Jr. and 2003 leg winner Jonard Comonong clash for leg honors anew as the 29th National Milo Marathon makes its last stop in Mindanao tomorrow for the Caraga Region elimination run in Butuan City.

Azarcon and Comonong head the elite field battling for the top purse of P10,000 in the 21K race.

More than 4,000 runners are expected to join the race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel, Cebu Pacific, adidas, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

The bulk of the participants are entered in the 5K fun run and the Kiddies 3K age-group class.

Local organizer Megdonio Llamera said Butuan Mayor Democrito Plaza II has been invited to fire the starting gun at exactly 6 a.m. Also invited to grace the awards rites are Department of Education Caraga Region director Jesusa Ateche, superintendent for Butuan City Eden Omboy and superintendent for Agusan del Norte Ponciano Joven.

The top three finishers in the 21K race qualify to the 42K National Finals set Oct. 9 in Metro Manila where P75,000 await each of the men's and women's champions.

The other names to watch in this Sunday's race are Rafael Tejada, Raul Lopez, Alden Amora, Johnry Espana, Marilyn Bernos and Mary Jane Cahig.

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3 VALIANT
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4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
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5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

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8 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
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4 COACH CARTER

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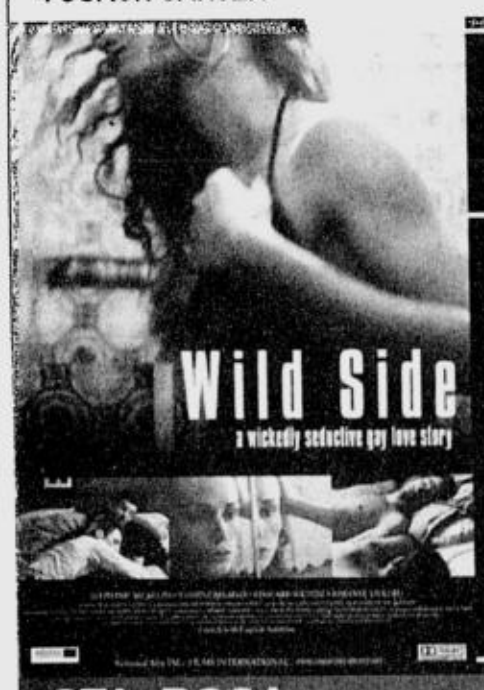
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 THE LONGEST YARD



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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SKY HIGH	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	3 THE LONGEST YARD	4 THE CAVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SKY HIGH	2 THE LONGEST YARD	3 THX THE CAVE 12.05, 2.10, 4.15, 6.20, 8.25, 10.30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	5 MUST LOVE DOGS	6 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	7 SKELETON KEY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA ADVANCE SCREENING For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81		2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20,9:40	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CAVE 12:50, 2.55, 5.00, 7.05,9.10, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 2.00, 4.20, 6.40,9.00, 11.20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2.45, 4.45, 6.45, 8.45, 10.45 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LONGEST YARD 2.00, 4.15, 6.30 8.45, 11.00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SKY HIGH 2.20, 4.30, 6.40, 8.50, 11.00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE DUKES OF HAZZARD		2 SKY HIGH	
	3 THE CAVE	4 MUST LOVE DOGS	5 THE LONGEST YARD	
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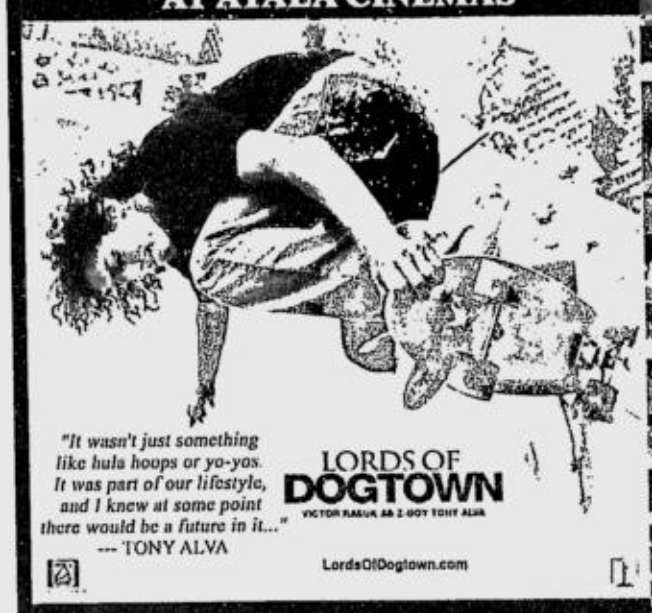

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VOLKSWAGEN MASTERS

Goosen keeps lead; 4 Filipinos falter

BEIJING—World No. 5 Retief Goosen held off a storming Michael Campbell to maintain a narrow one-shot lead in the second round of the Volkswagen Masters-China golf here on Friday.

Struggling off the tee, the overnight leader found water and hit a tree in his opening nine holes but recovered to post a five-under-par 67 for a two-round total of 13-under-par 131 thanks to his blistering 64 on Thursday.

Filipino golfers faltered, with Gerald Rosales coming up with a 70 (143). Jerome Delariarte shot a 77 (150), Angelo Que fired a 76 (153) and Danny Zarate had a 79 (153).

Australia's Gary Simpson was third with 10-under-par 134, three shots ahead of China's Zhang Lian Wei who was seven-under after his round of 68. Zhang had a share of fourth with Chen Tze Chung of Taiwan and Australian Adam Blyth in the $300,000 Asian Tour event at Jinghua Golf Club.

Magnetic putting saved Goosen's round as he recovered from his water shot on the par-five third and made birdies on four and even on six, despite his tee shot bouncing off a tree, with some memorable up-and-downs. *AFP*

Pisfa golf Monday

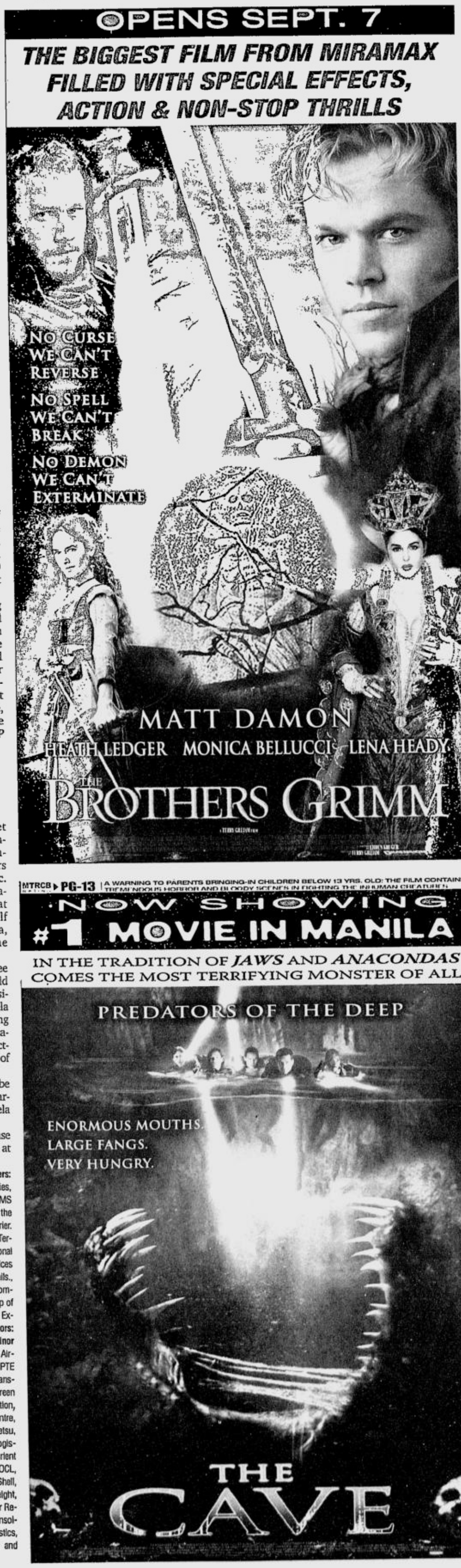
EVERYTHING is set for the Philippine International Seafreight Forwarders Association Inc. (Pisfa) golf tournament on Sept. 5, at the Sta. Elena Golf Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Tee-off time is 7 a.m.

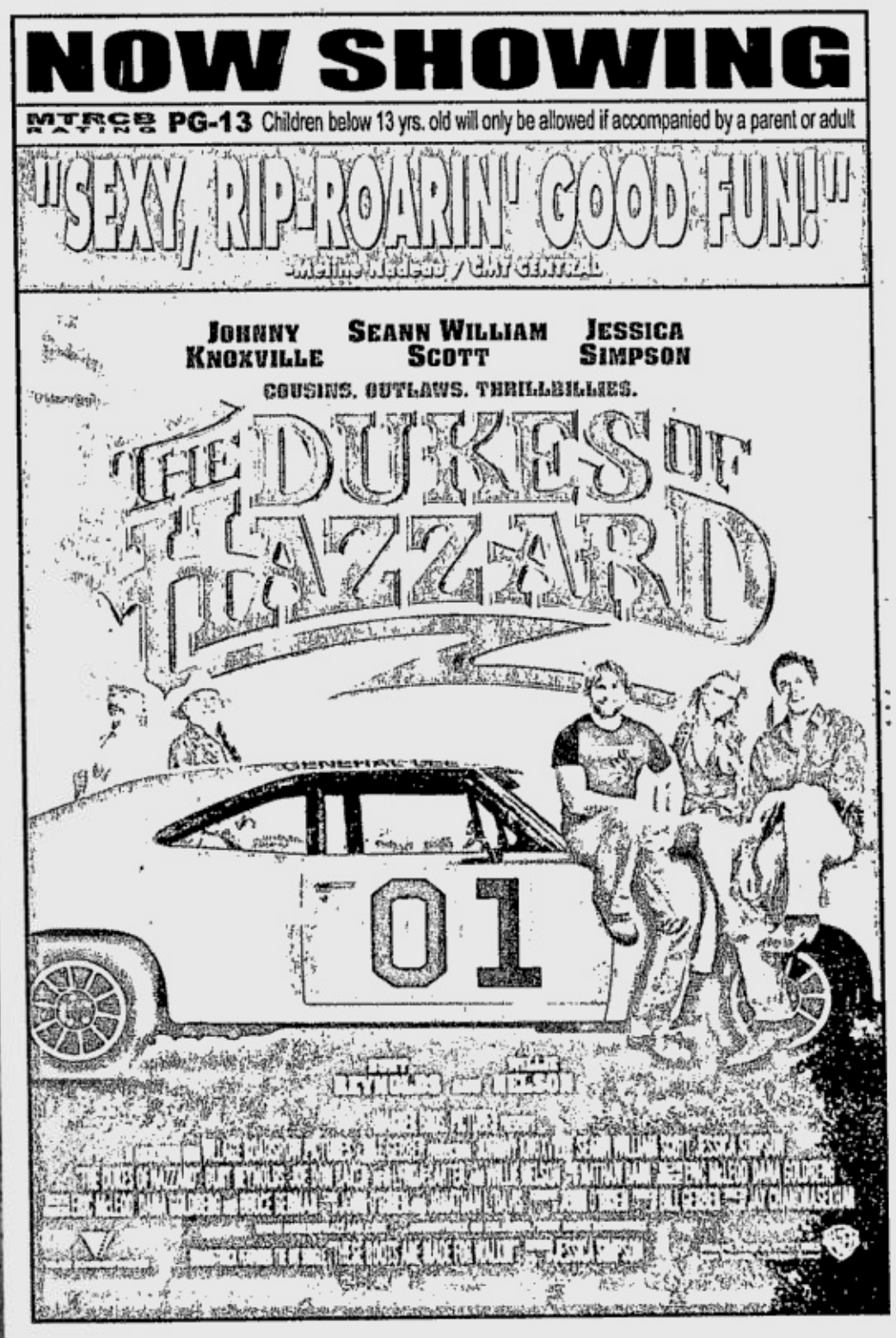
Sports committee chair Joey Castro told newly elected president Rico V. Brizuela that the fund-raising event for the association's projects attracted a record number of 140 or so players.

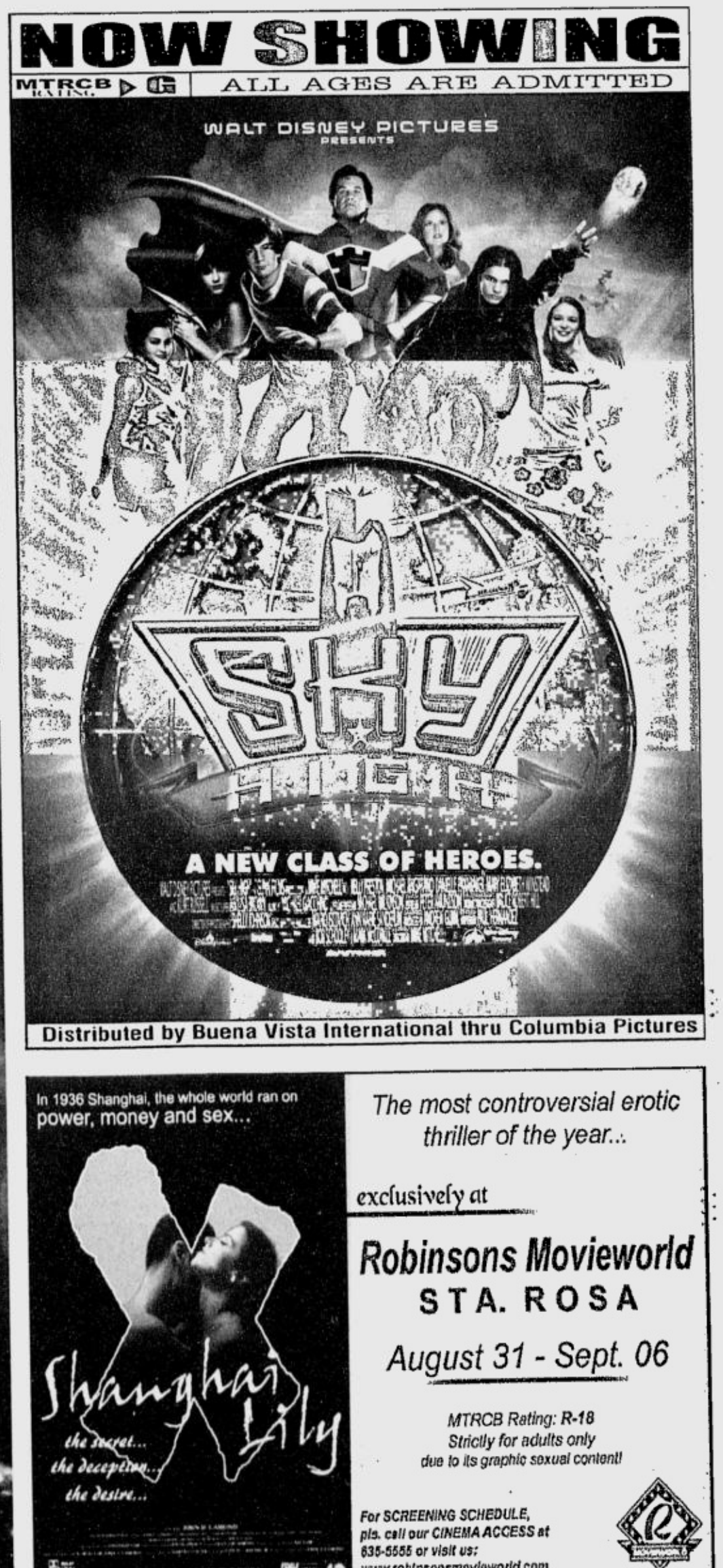
"It will definitely be a fun event for all participants," Brizuela said.

For inquiries, please call Ms. Julie Sudla at (632) 816-0466.

Tournament presenters: AAI Group of Companies, Mercury Freight Inc., TMS Ship Agencies Inc. and the NYK Logistics & Megacarrier. **Major Sponsors:** Asian Terminals Inc., International Container Terminal Services Inc., Starcomm, BMW Phils., Pac-Atlantic Group of Companies, Transmodal Group of Companies and Eagle Express Group. **Hole sponsors:** Cosco Phils and Acop. **Minor sponsors:** 8R Randers, Airfreight 2100, APL Co. PTE Ltd., Asia Overseas Transport, Citibank, Evergreen Phils., Freight Connection, Hankyu, Harbour Centre, ICPI, Keihin Everett, Kintetsu, Northwest, OIA Global Logistics, Options Logistics, Orient Freight, PairCargo, OOCL, Philippine Genesis, Shell, Seajet, Seaswift, Skyfreight, Skyland Brokerage, Solar Resources, Transglobal Consolidators, UTI Global Logistics, Vanguard Logistics, and Wide Wide World.







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MGA KUWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
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THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 SKY HIGH
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45
08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 THE CAVE
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45
08:25LFS/09:00LFS/10:40END

MEGAMALL
THE CAVE
10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50
09:30LFS/10:00LFS/10:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BEWICTHED
11:15FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 SKELETON KEY
11:15FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30
09:15FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 THE CAVE
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:05/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:10END

MANILA SKY HIGH
10:25FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20/07:30
09:10LFS/09:40LFS/11:35END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 EVIL EYES
6 CINE MANGA
7 MUST LOVE DOGS
8 SKELETON KEY
9 VALIANT
10 LONGEST YARD
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 EVIL EYES
3 VALIANT
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE CAVE
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH
9 LONGEST YARD
10 SKELETON KEY
11 BEWITCHED
12 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CAVE
2 LONGEST YARD
3 VALIANT
4 THE LAZARUS CHILD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 SKELETON KEY
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH

SM CITY STA MESA
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 THE GREAT RAID
9 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
10 VALIANT

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 SKELETONKEY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 EVIL EYES
9 VALIANT
10 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY MANILA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 THE CAVE
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 VALIANT
6 SKY HIGH
7 BEWITCHED
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEY

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 LONGEST YARD
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SKELETON KEY
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LONGEST YARD
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE CAVE
4 VALIANT
5 SKY HIGH
6 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 VALIANT
2 CRASH
3 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
4 BEWITCHED

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 CRASH

SM CITY MARILAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SKELETON KEY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY LUCENA
1 IF ONLY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 BEWITCHED
3 CRASH
4 THE EYE INFINITY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 EVIL EYES
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 BEWITCHED
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 SKELETON KEY
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 ICE PRINCESS
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE EYE INFINITY

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CINEMANILA 2005 • Advanced Screenings
cinemanga
Aug 31-Sept 6, SM Megamall Cinema
in cooperation with the City of Manila and SM Cinemas
Official Festival Dates: 12-25 October

Ghost In The Shell 2: Innocence
by Mamoru Oshii (2004, Japan, 69 mins)
Batô is a living cyborg. What only remains are traces of his brain and the memories of a woman. Together with his partner, Togusa, he is sent by the government to investigate a series of shocking murders. Orient Express Award Winner, Catalonian Film Festival 2004, Best Animated Feature-Nominated, Annie Awards 2005

Steamboy
by Katsuhiro Otomo (2004, Japan, 126 mins)
The nefarious Ohara Foundation has sent men to acquire the Steam Ball so that they can use its power towards their own elicit ends. Ray, a young inventor living in the UK, must then protect the said invention in order to keep a menacing power from being unleashed. Best Animated Feature Film Winner, Catalonian Film Festival 2004

Appleseed
by Shinji Aramaki (2004, Japan, 103 mins)
Based on the 1985 story by legendary writer Masamune Shirow, Appleseed is the story of Deunan who finds herself in the utopic city of Olympus and on a mission to track down Appleseed, a computer code that will decide the war between humans and cyborgs.

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SHANG CINEPLEX
1 EIGA SAI 2005 (OPEN FOR PUBLIC)
2 THE CAVE
MTRCB: PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 LMF
3 SKY HIGH
MTRCB: GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
MTRCB: PG-13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE THE LONGEST YARD
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EIGA SAI 2005
HORROR FILMS

SEPTEMBER 1 (Thu)
2:00pm Gakko no Kaidan (Haunted School) by Hideyuki Hirayama
5:00pm Yotsuya Kaidan (Yotsuya Ghost Story) by Kenji Misumi
8:00pm Kaidan (Kwaidan) by Masaki Kobayashi

SEPTEMBER 2 (Fri)
2:00pm Yotsuya Kaidan (Yotsuya Ghost Story) by Kenji Misumi
5:00pm Ugetsu Monogatari (The Ugetsu Story) by Kenji Mizoguchi
8:00pm Kairo (Pulse) by Kiyoshi Kurosawa

SEPTEMBER 3 (Sat)
2:00pm Gakko no Kaidan (Haunted School) by Hideyuki Hirayama
5:00pm Hausu (House) by Nobuhiko Obayashi
8:00pm Tomie: Rebirth by Shimizu Takashi

SEPTEMBER 5 (Sun)
2:00pm Kairo (Pulse) by Kiyoshi Kurosawa
5:00pm Yotsuya Kaidan (Yotsuya Ghost Story) by Kenji Misumi
8:00pm Kaidan (Kwaidan) by Masaki Kobayashi

SEPTEMBER 6 (Mon)
2:00pm Ugetsu Monogatari (The Ugetsu Story) by Kenji Mizoguchi
5:00pm Hausu (House) by Nobuhiko Obayashi
8:00pm Kaidan (Kwaidan) by Masaki Kobayashi

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CINEMA 2 THE CAVE PG13 11:55, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:25
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CINEMA 3 LONGEST YARD PG13 11:40, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25
CINEMA 4 DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
CINEMA 5 SKY HIGH GP 10:45, 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 THE LONGEST YARD 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13
3 SKY HIGH 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 GP
4 THE CAVE PLEASE CALL FOR SCREENING TIME PG-13

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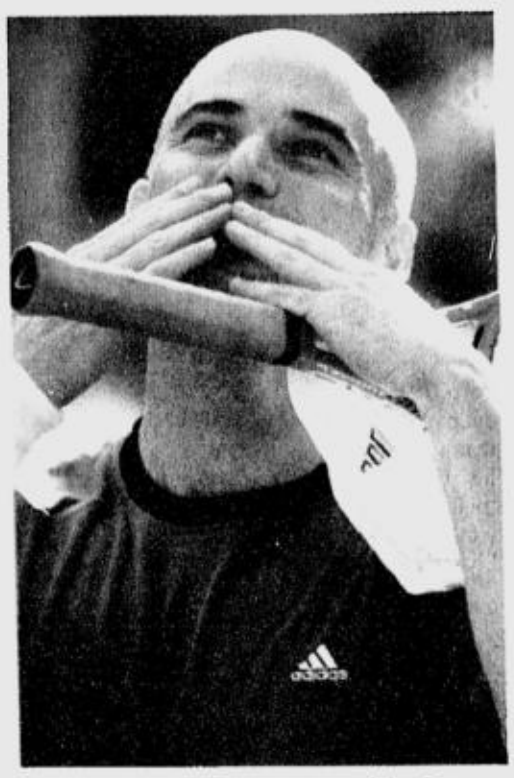
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

VALIANT GP 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	SKY HIGH GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:00	THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05
THE CAVE PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:10	SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS GP 1:30,4:00,6:30,9:00	LONGEST YARD PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15



AGASSI: Loving every moment of the Open. AP

US OPEN

Agassi topples a 'giant'

NEW YORK—Andre Agassi continued his run for one more Grand Slam title in his 20th visit to the US Open when he toppled 6-foot-10 Ivo Karlovic, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (4), on Thursday.

DAVENPORT AP

At 35, nine years older than the gangling giant across the net, Agassi came up bigger on the big points. His wife, Steffi Graf, and 3-year-old son, Jaden, watched at courtside.

"Listen to that," Agassi said as the standing crowd in Arthur Ashe Stadium cheered his second-round victory. "How does that get old? Thanks guys."

Agassi was wary after watching No. 4-seeded Andy Roddick fall in three tiebreakers in the first round against Luxembourg's Gilles Muller. Muller's luck and poise didn't hold in the second round as he was beaten 6-1, 6-1, 6-4 by doubles partner Robby Ginepri.

"It's good to beat Roddick," Muller said. "But then if you play in the next round like I did today, it doesn't change anything."

No. 13 Richard Gasquet of France advanced when Giorgio Galimberti of Italy retired. Sebastien Grosjean of France beat No. 14 Thomas Johansson, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, and No. 19 Tommy Robredo knocked out three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-2.

James Blake set up a third-round match against No. 2 seed Rafael Nadal by beating Igor Andreev of Russia, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, in a night match.

Women's matches

In women's matches, No. 2 Lindsay Davenport, No. 3 Amelie Mauresmo, No. 6 Elena Dementieva, No. 7 Justine Henin-Hardenne, No. 12 Mary Pierce, No. 13 Anastasia Myskina, No. 15 Nathalie Dechy, No. 17 Jelena Jankovic, No. 19 Elena Likhovtseva, No. 23 Tatiana Golovin and No. 24 Shinobu Asagoe all won in straight sets.

Agassi conceded 11 inches (28 centimeters) to Karlovic, spun serves about 50 mph (80 kph) slower, and a 30-5 ace count.

The two-time Open champion, seeded No. 7, couldn't equal Karlovic's power and didn't care. Rather, he settled for cleverness and steadiness, taking advantage of the Croatian's weak backhand and awkward lateral movement. No one on the tour likes to play against the No. 56-ranked Karlovic, Agassi had said before playing him for the first time, because his serves come down from an unfamiliar trajectory, as if fired from the roof. Agassi felt the same way after winning.

Incredible serve

"It's an incredible serve," Agassi said. "I'm trying to figure out where it is I would need to stand on the court to have the same trajectory. It's not a function of how fast it is because a lot of guys can serve it 135 (mph)-plus. The trajectory is the main issue because you're lunging, but then it's up."

Agassi swung and swished at some serves and stared helplessly as many others sped by. Each time he walked calmly to the other side, waiting for the ones he could get a racket on, trying to get Karlovic to play on different terms in rallies. There Agassi had the advantage.

"If I was coaching him, I'd fine him $100 every time he hit a groundstroke," Agassi said. "In his most difficult moments, he was more awkward than I anticipated." *AP*

Eagles seek No. 2 slot

COACH Norman Black doesn't want his Ateneo Eagles to be overconfident when they shoot for the second semifinal slot against the eliminated University of Santo Tomas Tigers today in the UAAP basketball tournament.

"We don't want to take them lightly, we don't want to slip against the lower teams," said Black as his Eagles gun for their eight straight win at 2 p.m. at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Far Eastern U Tamaraws (9-1) already secured the first Final Four ticket last Sunday. Ateneo holds second at 8-2 with UE third at 8-4.

The Final Four cast will be completed if the La Salle Archers (7-4) win over the UP Maroons (6-6) in the second game at 4 p.m. today.

Meanwhile, the UAAP technical committee will decide today the protest filed by UE yesterday questioning the resetting of the game clock by officials in the waning seconds of regulation play of their game with the Archers Thursday.

Officials ordered the resetting of the game clock from 0.1 second to 1.8 seconds with UE leading, 74-72.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	9	1
Ateneo	8	2
UE	8	4
La Salle	7	4
UP	6	6
UST	3	8
Adamson	3	9
NU	0	10

GAMES TODAY
(Blue Eagle Gym)
9:30 a.m.—UST vs Ateneo (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UP vs La Salle (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UST vs Ateneo (Srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs La Salle (Srs)

Red Bull, FedEx visit malls today

PBA fans get the chance to mingle with their favorite players from the Red Bull and FedEx teams as the PBA mall tour winds up its first week of activities at Robinsons Metro East and Robinsons Pioneer, respectively, today and tomorrow. Barakos Enrico Villanueva and Topex Robinson will meet fans at Robinsons Metro East beginning at 4 p.m., the same time FedEx stalwarts like Renren Ritualo, Ranidel de Ocampo, Wesley Gonzales and Marc Pingris will entertain their followers and supporters at Robinsons Pioneer. The event, sponsored by Robinsons Malls, Epson, FedEx, Air 21 and Mail and More, is also being staged to generate interest in the opening of pro league's new season on Oct. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

120 fights up at Roligon

THE FIRST round eliminations of the National Showdown 7-Stag Derby kick off at 2 p.m. today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with 120 fights lined up. The second round is scheduled on Monday and the finals on Wednesday. No less than P1 million in total prizes is at stake, said derby hosts Danny Ty and Romero Yu who will be assisted anew by pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 or 0917-8277484. Derby sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Power Feeds. Next up at the venue is the "Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby" on Sept. 17, 19, 21, 24 and 27 with Edgar Coronel as host.

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Meet & greet NBA sensation Sebastian Telfair!
Today & Tomorrow
ARANETA COLISEUM

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SKY HIGH 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	
THE CAVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	SKELETON KEY 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
LONGEST YARD 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	MUST LOVE DOGS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 SKY HIGH 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
2 THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
3 THE LONGEST YARD 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
4 D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
ADIDAS ASIAN STREETBALL FINALS 2005 — Sep.3, Sat. 10am - 5pm & Sep.4, Sun 9am - 5pm
NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION — September 7, Wednesday 2pm
THE CASCADES ENCORE — September 9, Friday 8pm
Sep.10 UST vs NU Jrs 9:30am UE vs UP Jrs 11:30am; Saturday UST vs NU Srs 2pm UE vs UP Srs 4pm

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENT — Ali Mall Anniversaya Sale ongoing until September 29. Up to 50% off mallwide. Open till 10pm on Fridays & Saturdays
NEW STORES — Florsheim (Ground Floor), Duck Duck (Ground Floor), Naturalizer (Level 2) & Pancake House (Level 2) now open at Gateway Mall

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3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH GP
4 (DOLBY) THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE LONGEST YARD PG13

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2 (SDDS) ARE WE THRE YET
3 (DTS) MUST LOVE DOGS
4 GOLD (DTS) DUKE OF HAZZARD
5 GOLD (DOLBY) CAVE
6 GOLD (SDDS) LONGEST YARD
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
8 (DOLBY STEREO) VALIANT
9 (DOLBY STEREO) TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
10 (DOLBY STEREO) SKELETON KEY

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2 CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
2 (DOLBY) DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 (DOLBY) THE CAVE
4 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD

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2 CAVE
3 RESERVED
4 PASAWAY
5 DUKE OF HAZZARD

CINEMA 2000 Waltermart
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2 (DTS) TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4 SKY HIGH

CINEMA 2000 Pavilion Mall
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4 PUSANG GALA

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2 EVIL EYE
3 (DOLBY) ARAHAN
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Lianas Cinema
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3 HINOG SA PILIT
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2 PUSANG GALA
3 (DTS) SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4 PASAWAY
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Fiesta World Mall
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2 BENEATH LOCKNES

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2 RESERVED
3 KAULAYAW
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5 CAVE

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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
6 CAVE

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SATURDAY *Special*

Editor **Nestor U. Torre**
Assistant Editor **Rito P. Asilo**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

ANGARANO. Plays teenage protagonist in Disney's superhero flick.

NOW SHOWING

GOOD VS. EVIL

By Rito P. Asilo

"Sky High"
D: Mike Mitchell
S: Kurt Russell, Kelly Preston, Michael Angarano, Lynda Carter

MIKE Mitchell steers clear of the dark and brooding tone of recent superhero flicks, and delivers an entertaining take on the lives of metahumans—in this case, teenage superheroes and villains, who are just starting to discover the scope and extent of their special gifts.

Will Stronghold (Michael Angarano) has big shoes to fill. His parents, Steve *aka* The Commander and Josie *aka* Jetstream (Kurt Russell and Kelly Preston, respectively), are considered Earth's greatest superheroes. But, when Will is sent to attend Sky High, a special high school for kids with super powers, he's faced with a dilemma: His skills have yet to surface—he doesn't know if he has inherited his father's super strength, his mother's gift of flight, or none at all!

Unable to demonstrate any special skill, he gets booted out of the Heroes' class and ends up with the rejects—the Sidekicks. He must deal with the campus-by-the-clouds' powerful bullies, the popular girl's flattering advances, overbearing teachers, the angry loner with a score to settle, and a villain who observes every move he makes! But, when his powers begin to manifest themselves, so do his enemies. Who says that the life of a hero is a walk in the park?

GOOD/ A2-2

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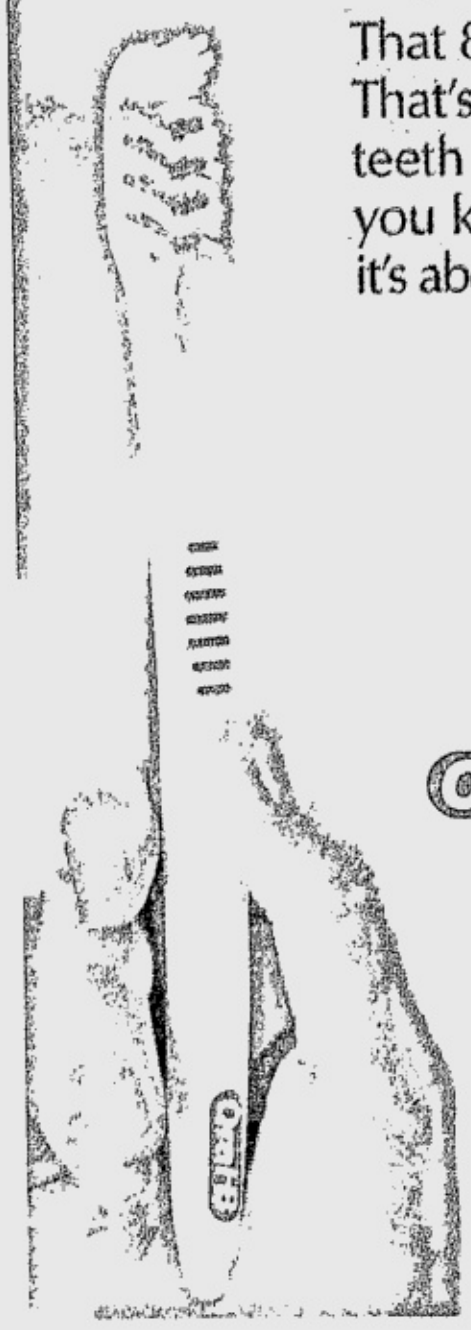

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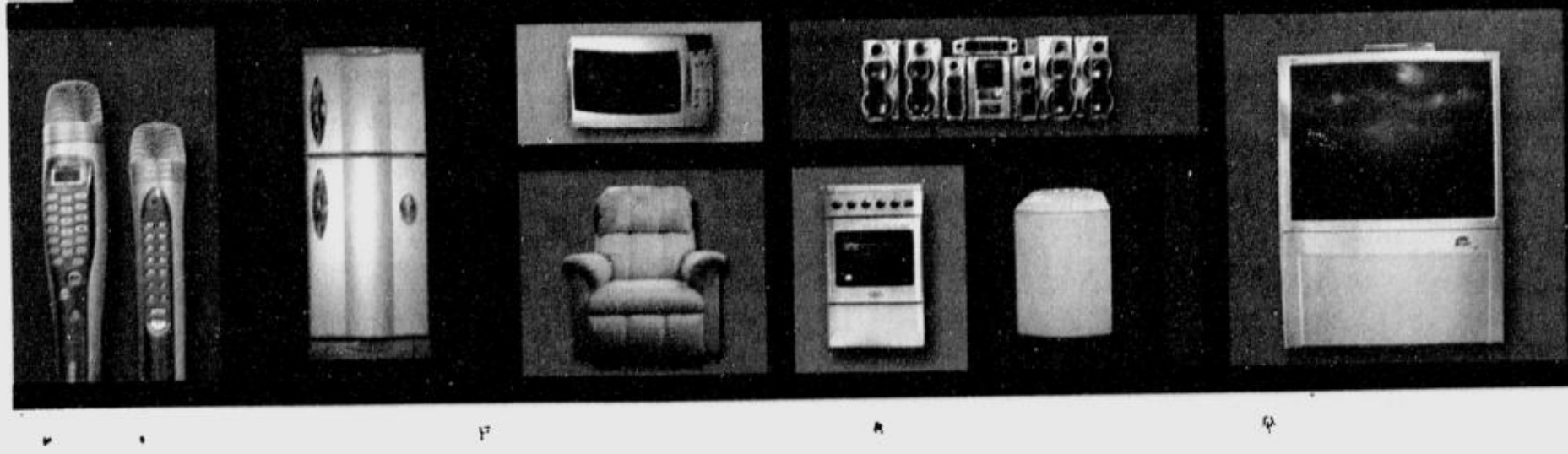


Find everything you need when you visit the GSC Mid-Year Appliance Fair! Shop from a wide variety of appliances from Automatic Center to complete all your home appliance needs. Plus, all Citibank credit cardholders can enjoy 0% interest on selected items. With bargain stalls, food and entertainment choices that are open for you to enjoy with family and friends, it's an automatic mid-year bonus for all GSC shoppers!

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER

'Rock Star' bets live up to new challenge

By Nestor U. Torre

WE try to watch "Rock Star: INXS" every week, because the talent-search program keeps coming up with interesting and instructive innovations that keep it exciting and fresh.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, the new challenge for the six remaining finalists was a recording session, during which each of the survivors recorded his or her version of a new INXS song.

Jordis and JD got the most negative notes during that session, because they played around with the song's melody too much, or didn't know the tune that well.

AYESA. Doing really well.

Negative image

Later, JD added to his negative image by lashing out at Suzie for a real or imagined slight. The other finalists sided with Suzie, so JD was definitely the odd man out.

Be that as it may, all of the finalists turned in exceptional live performances last Wednesday. They were given great rock songs to do—and they lived up to the challenge!

In fact, the INXS jurors described the mini-concert they put up as an "epic" musical experience, and the audience agreed. According to the judges, the standout performer was Suzie, but our own scoresheet shows that Jordis and MiG's numbers were our best bets.

In any case, the past two weeks have been instructive because they've witnessed the "rehabilitation" of Suzie McNeil. For a long stretch before, Suzie was consistently in the bottom three. In fact, she was fully prepared to leave the show anytime.

Two weeks ago, however, she came on so strong that she was the only finalist who *didn't* end up at the bottom at various stages of the ongoing tabulations of viewers' "votes."

And, last Thursday, she also ended up on top, along with MiG. What a comeback!

Danger zone

As for the finalists in the danger zone, some of them confessed that they were confused about the standards being used to evaluate their performances.

They pointed out that this was a rock competition, and that meant freedom and daring—so, why were they being required to follow their songs' musical lines so strictly?

The INXS jurors admitted the point was well-taken, and clarified that, all things being equal, the rock element would be more important than musicality. *But,* things in the competition *weren't* equal, since some of the finalists were clearly better than the others—so, musical "manners" still had to be observed.

And, the bottom line was: Viewers would vote for their personal favorites, but the INXS jurors would choose the finalist who would do best interpreting the band's unique kind of rock-soul music. In about a month's time, we'll finally know who that sole survivor is!

Top two

For the moment, though, "our" MiG Ayesa is doing well. He's more than just hanging in there—in fact, last Thursday, he was cited as one of the top two!

So, who bit the dust this week? Since the remaining finalists are all outstanding performances, even good talents will have to leave the show in due time. And, last Thursday, it was Ty who had to go.

Not to worry, though: He's proven his stellar potential on the show, so it's likely that he'll make it on his own steam in the months to come.

Getting into music videos

By Rica Arevalo

FOR budding filmmakers, making music videos provides an easy entry into the entertainment industry. The trend in marketing today is to play a song on the airwaves, show the music video on TV, and bombard the audience with commercials using the hit tune.

Authority

Robert Quebral is an authority when it comes to music videos, having facilitated the making of more than 30 music videos for popular artists and bands. He used to handle the programming of Channel [V] and MTV Philippines.

So, when he conducted a workshop on music video-making at the Blacksoup Project Artspace, I grabbed the chance to hear his insights on the matter.

How does a music video director get hired? "It extends beyond the professional setup. If a member of the band or the manager happens to be your friend, let him know that you're an aspiring director and are talented. The music video industry is the easiest to break into," says the 38-year-old Mowelfund-trained filmmaker.

Practical reasons

More often than not, recording companies are not scared to try out eager-beaver new directors. For practical reasons, these new directors don't demand huge talent fees, and they make do with limited budgets because these music videos serve as their ticket to bigger projects.

How does one deal with people from recording companies? Quebral says, "In a record label, Artist and Relations (A and R) managers are often in charge of music videos.

"Directors submit a concept for a particular song. The label's managing director, band members and their managers discuss marketing and image-building."

Protocol

Music video channels prefer dealing with an album's distributor, so directors are advised to maintain protocol to avoid confusion.

"Labels submit broadcast-quality copies. Music channels discuss with the labels the possibility of featuring artists and their videos on platforms like 'Local Artist of the Month' or 'Rising Star.'

"There is censorship no matter how progressive the programming is, so directors should be careful when creating visuals for their videos," Quebral shares.

One last reminder: Merchandising through music or product endorsements, whether it's accidental or not, is classified as a commercial endeavor, so the labels or bands are required to pay for air time.

Another workshop is scheduled on Sept. 17. Call 439-8838, or email blacksoup2005@gmail.com

Mr. Tax Man

BUÑAG. Welcome changes.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THERE are welcome changes happening at the Bureau of Internal Revenue: Among others, the new boss greets every employee he meets with a smile.

Jose Mario "Jojo" C. Buñag, is the new Mr. Tax Man. In one of his first meetings, Jojo spoke to some leaders of the financial world on "Initiatives under the New BIR Leadership."

Collection

Buñag revealed that BIR had a shortfall of P11.2-billion in its collection as of July. He had only been appointed to the post last July 11. He has a 10-point agenda, most of which consist of maintaining and implementing current policies for collection, and closely monitoring voluntary payments.

He is intent on fine-tuning tax mapping and standardizing operations because he believes that improving the quality of service and speeding up approvals will help weed out corruption.

Buñag said that he wants to speed up the completion of tax payments, and intends to build a directory in every BIR office.

At the meeting, the prevailing mood was that of a sense of comfort and assurance—that the nation's tax collections rested in able hands. Buñag understands his law and procedures. Now, that's reassuring!

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 899-1767.

A golden night to remember

By Arlina Onglao

HOW does one get to celebrate her birthday when she turns half a century old? Most women would rather keep mum about it when they reach such a "landmark" age. I, too, was in denial at the beginning, but after some reflection, I decided to face it squarely.

I did not want a party where guests would deliver endless tributes and bore everyone to death, nor did I want the usual night of dining and wining. I wanted a party that would reach out to others, a unique way of thanking my loved ones, especially God, for half a century of blessings and good company.

ONGLAO (CENTER) WITH UNIQ-ON'S MENDOZA (LEFT) AND TORIO. Unique way to thank her loved ones.

Musical-comedy revue

So, I decided to celebrate D-day differently, with a musical-comedy revue, written and directed by NUT. And I had to muster all my courage when he made me, an absolute amateur, perform a surprise comedy number with veteran thespians Andy Bais and Rito Asilo. What a challenge—and what fun!

It turned out to be a night to remember with relatives, close friends, Maryknoll high school classmates, and loyal pilgrims of our Journeys of Faith travel agency gracing the occasion. Friends in the media also attended, among them Bibsy Carballo, Belinda Cunanan, June Keithley and Cheche Lazaro.

The affair was made even more special by friends who contributed time, talent and treasure in organizing and arranging the event. Lance Gokongwei of Cebu Pacific donated a round-trip Manila-to-Hong Kong ticket, while Emirates Airlines and Air Macau gave their generous share of raffle prizes.

Nina Intengan of Ten Bakeshop in White Plains gave a big discount for her lovely fondant cake. Mother and daughter-in-law team Nelia and Lyn Melitante of Floral Trends (0918 906-2834) provided fresh flower arrangements.

Janet Torio and Paul Mendoza of Uniq-on Creative Specialists (726-3776 local 12807/ 0917 855-5438), a company into interior and landscape design, packaging, promo items, photography, mural paintings and faux finishes, took care of the interior design. And Grand Flora (823-3676 to 77) provided artificial plants and trees, stands and fountain.

They all made my 50th birthday truly a golden night to remember!

When was the last time you went to paradise?

Until September 30, stay at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort & Spa and for P7,233 nett, get to stay in a Superior Garden View Room for two. This package includes buffet breakfast and roundtrip airport shuttle service. Stay for two nights and get a complimentary buffet dinner for two on the second night at Tides, our new interactive restaurant. For inquiries and reservations, call (032) 231-0288 or e-mail reservations.mac@shangri-la.com.

Prior reservations required and room is subject to availability. Exclusive to Philippine Residents. Proof of Residency is required upon check-in. Third person rate is P3,014 nett inclusive of breakfast. Valid until Sept. 30, 2005. Per DTI Cebu Permit No. 267, Series of 2005.

Good versus evil

From page A2-1

Yes, this superhero tale is Disneyfied. But, Mitchell delivers a film that packs a wallop: It features engaging action scenes; provides nuggets of wisdom about puppy love and teenage angst, and delivers a story that young children can learn from—about the eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil.

"The Dukes of Hazzard"

D: Jay Chandrasekhar
S: Johnny Knoxville, Seann William Scott, Jessica Simpson, Lynda Carter

If Lynda Carter hit a perfect stride on her comeback trail in "Sky High," she loses steam in her *other* return vehicle—Jay Chandrasekhar's big-screen remake of the popular 1979-1985 TV series. Not that it's Carter's fault that the movie is witless and fun-free. But, the Razzies are suddenly abuzz with excitement: Finally, here's an early frontrunner for next year's worst film honors!

Cousins Bo and Luke Duke (Seann William Scott and Johnny Knoxville, respectively) square off against Hazzard County's crooked Boss Hogg (Burt Reynolds), to save Georgia's hillbilly small-town from Hogg's sinister plan to turn the place into a coal-mining wasteland.

Pop princess Jessica Simpson beat Britney Spears and Mandy Moore for the role of skimpily clad, blonde vixen, Daisy Duke, who occasionally pops in to wheedle favors for her clueless cousins. Spears and Moore must be heaving a sigh of relief now for the casting loss!

In one scene, for example, the Dukes win a Nascar race while they are being pursued by the state police, who can't seem to outpace the General Lee, Bo and Luke's dilapidated 1969 Dodger Charger! What a feat, huh? Perhaps. We call these Dukes a viewing hazard.

"Pasaway na Multo"

D: Cesar Sb. Abella
S: Bonnel Balingit, Raja Montero

After bumbling Baguio City cop, Bonifacio Andres (Bonnel Balingit), gets fatally wounded by thugs, he finds himself among restless souls who have yet to cross over to the next dimension. He soon commences his misadventures as a ghost—which include spurning Satan's invitation to be the fork-tailed demon's assistant!

Balingit returns to the screen after "Hayop sa Porma, Hanep sa Ganda" and "Saksi Driver." In the film, he delivers a performance that consists of a single facial_expression from start to finish.

His usual deadpan delivery—okay, remove the "pan" suffix—that gives color and character to the roles he portrays on the boob tube simply doesn't work on the big screen, and the story that is neither romantic nor funny doesn't help either.

But, when Boni sings "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas" and "Pagdating ng Panahon" with his paramour, Clyde (Raja Montero)—out of sync, and out of tune—he finally lives up to the film's title.

My favorite Filipino films

By Behn Cervantes

I AM hard-put when asked what my five favorite Filipino films are, because I missed many vintage films. I started viewing local films seriously only in the late '60s, when I had to review films for the Manila Chronicle.

Before that, I was a disciple of Hollywood's MGM, 20th Century Fox and Warner Bros.

I ran around with the crowd that believed local films were for housemaids and, yes, the *bakya* crowd. I rarely saw local films, although I had already heard about Bert Avellana and Gerry de Leon. But, it was Lino Brocka who inveigled me to view local films when we were in college. He would force Joonee Gamboa, Adul de Leon and me to see the latest local hit.

Without reservations

Interestingly, one of my favorite Filipino films is Lino's "Maynila, Sa Kuko ng Liwanag," where he achieved what he always dreamt of doing. I was completed captivated by the film. Not only was the story topical and the script timely, it was also a rare local film that you could call good without reservations.

Mike de Leon's photographic achievement set new standards for local cinematography.

You emerged from the moviehouse eager to affect change in the decaying society so realistically but artistically captured by Brocka's masterpiece.

SANTOS. Star of Mike de Leon's "Sister Stella L."

All of Mike de Leon's films can be justly cited by film buffs as favorites. "Itim" is an excellent model for any aspiring filmmaker. However, I felt he succeeded best with "Kakaba-kaba Ka Ba?," because the spoof-musical best vivified the director's sardonic view of the world.

The witty musical numbers and brazen caricature of recognizable characters were vibrantly amusing—and remain so to this day.

The film that drew me to watch local films was "Anak Dalita" by Bert Avellana. The black and white cinematography was excellent and vivid. Rosa Rosal and Tony Santos acted and sounded like truthful and familiar denizens of the urban jungle.

Certainly, there was reason for their repeat team-up in "Badjao." The script was terse and free from the archaic dialogue and artifice that plagued many local films.

Artistic integrity

I admired the artistic integrity and consistency of "Badjao." After all, "Badjao" and "Anak Dalita" were produced to garner awards, so what better encouragement could Avellana have from an intelligent producer like Manny de Leon?

Again, I was impressed by Rosal Rosal's dynamic screen presence and control of her craft. Tony Santos' naturalistic style of acting, non-actor looks and plebeian voice made him all the more sympathetic and believable. The cinematography was brilliant, too.

The fifth spot is a split between the Vilma Santos starrer "Sister Stella L" and "Orapronobis" because these socially-relevant films reflected society correctly at such an appropriate time. Political statements were clearly made, and they were deemed seditious by the military.

In fact, the courage and integrity of the scripts of Pete Lacaba propelled directors Mike de Leon and Lino Brocka to strive for greater visceral effect, thus inciting their lead actors to come up with some of their best performances.

Cynical propensity compromises 'Big Brother'

By Nestor U. Torre

DESPITE a growing sense of dis-ease and boredom, we made it a point to watch the daily telecasts of the new reality show, "Pinoy Big Brother," on its first week, to make sure that we would get a good overview of what it was about.

Well, after that long first week, we sense that the show is trying to show the evolution of human relationships in a stressful situation, like the 12 "residents" of the show's house-resort-prison. There *are* valuable lessons to be learned from such an "experimental," "laboratory" illustration of human psychology.

Positive attributes

Unfortunately, the show's potentially positive attributes and results are compromised by several negative factors: First, most of the 12 young men and women chosen aren't interesting as people—especially not when viewers are encouraged to gawk at their daily activities and proclivities for more than three months!

Many of them soon come off as immature, peevish, egocentric, and not very caring or imaginative—so, where's the attraction there?

Second, most of the big house's residents, especially the women, appear to have been chosen for their "liberated" attitude, so the show's worthy psychological intent is roundly and rudely upstaged by the residents' loose behavior and skimpy clothing.

Third, while the residents are given a variety of "interesting" things to do and challenging tasks to accomplish, their interest value isn't sustained because the 12 housemates' reactions and comments are generally predictable and shallow.

To balance the picture, the show does score plus points with its "confessional" portion, in which the residents talk to their mini-society's Big Brother, and unburden themselves of their private and personal hurts, resentments and angsts.

Insights

But, the psychological insights gained from this portion are diminished by the voyeuristic attitude that the show encourages in viewers. Thus, the intent is not really to understand human nature, but to poke one's nosey proboscis into other people's affairs, to sniff out fetid controversies and scandals.

Compounding this cynical propensity, the residents were encouraged (until a recent clampdown, after some viewers complained) to be quite graphic in their conversations.

We get the feeling that the show is adding to its sizzle in these ways to generate controversy, thus viewership, thus high ratings, thus more commercials, thus bigger profits.

This is par for the TV course, but some viewers have been complaining because of its negative effect on young viewers.

To really turn the show around, it has to stress psychology over self-serving sizzle, and to make its proceedings genuinely interesting and eventful. The question is, does its production team have what it takes to do this?

Corgan goes solo in 'The Future Embrace'

By Noelani Torre

CORGAN. More bent on creating soundscapes rather than actual songs.

YOU certainly can't accuse Billy Corgan of playing the fade-away, what-am-I-going-to-do-without-a-band ex-rock star role. His split with the Smashing Pumpkins back in 2000 and a subsequent parting of ways with Zwan in 2003 haven't fazed the smooth-pated vocalist.

He's been keeping busy: The year after the SP breakup found him playing side guitar for New Order; Zwan released a well-received album, "Mary, Star of the Sea," before he called it quits; and last year, Faber and Faber published his poetry collection, "Blinking with Fists." This year, he finally went down the road that everybody has been expecting him to take since he left the Pumpkins.

Perfectionist facade

At last, Billy Corgan has gone solo. "The Future Embrace" is his first solo effort, and if you look at the CD's front and back covers, you'll know what this album is going to be like—something along the lines of "the real Billy Corgan revealed," or "the person behind that hairless, chilly, and notoriously perfectionist façade that angst-ridden youth went ga-ga over 10 years ago."

Not that he hasn't done self-revelation before. A lot of those SP songs we all wailed along with must have been at least semi-autobiographical. Still, this is supposed to be a more visceral exploration and exposure of the self. If you know your SP/Corgan history, you'll find the focus on his birthmark significant—the embarrassment it's always caused him is one of his "issues."

Earlier work

"The Future Embrace" sounds vastly different from his earlier work with the SP. The synth machine is ever present—but this time, it doesn't bother with delivering hooks, or beats, or anything that might show signs of life. Corgan seems more bent on creating soundscapes rather than actual songs, and though this is not a bad thing in itself, it does make for moments of difficult listening.

All in all, this is a gloomy record. It's as though he's channeling The Cure—and indeed, Robert Smith himself appears in "Tolovesomenody," the reinterpretation of the BeeGee's—what else?—"To Love Somebody."

In the end, it all boils down to this—if you're already a fan of Billy Corgan, then by all means, plug in your headphones and commune with him. If you're not, you may want to steer clear of "The Future Embrace." It requires a friendly and forgiving ear.

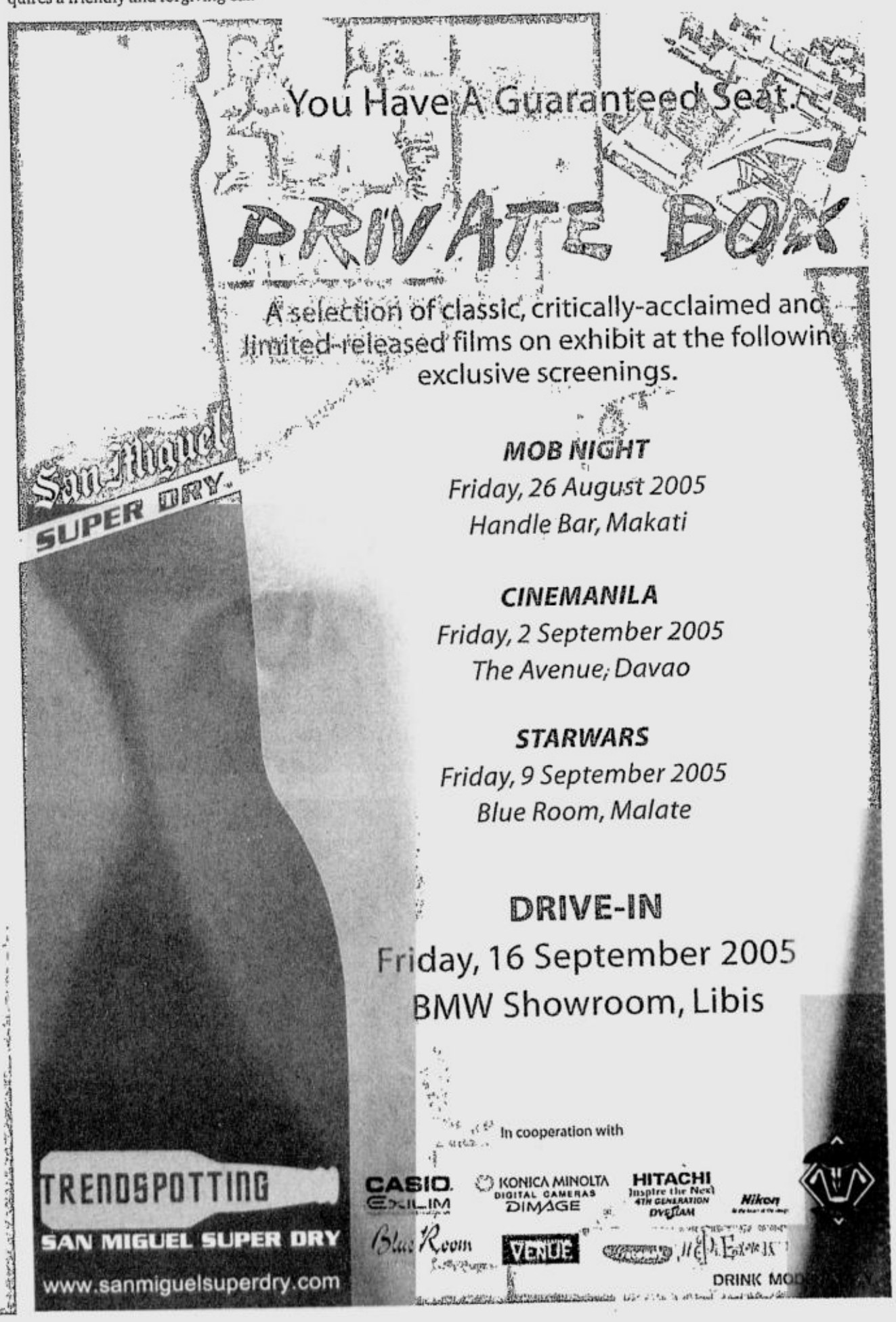
WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S HOT

In a world, where the cosa nostra rules, where the force is strong, and where German cars soar...San Miguel Super Dry is your key. This season, Trendspotting, the country's exclusive event series presents : Cinerama. A month long movie-fest that lets you relish the movies in a whole new way: in the ambience they were meant to be seen in.

Experience the Godfather in a mafia-esque bar. Rev up to the BMW films in a drive- in theatre as BMW cars and bikes surround you. Feel the full force of Star Wars in a setting that takes you to galaxies far, far away. Or be the target of the paparazzi in the Cannes film festival. To further delight your senses, games, costume parties and bands will also be present, as well as a whole slew of cinematic trappings.

Of course, all this is just a teaser of what's yet to come from the one name that compliments your taste for the exquisite trends in life. San Miguel Super Dry Trendspotting.

Sit back, relax and enjoy the show.



Images . . .

From page A2-4

programming. If a lot of time is taken up by commercials, the public's viewing options would be reduced, and that's all to the bad.

Erring TV people feel they can get away with anything because government agencies and viewers here are clueless or passive.

Viewers have to remind themselves of their right to substantial, balanced and responsible programming—and act on their responsibility to uphold that right!

Finally, GMA-7's "Maynila" at 10:30 a.m. today features the values-laden episode, "Love Knows Best," written by Agnes de Guzman and directed by Phil Noble.

The drama-comedy features Tyrone Perez, Christine Reyes, Andy Bais and Joy Viado.

Bright and breezy tracks

By Noelani Torre

APPROPRIATELY enough, the first thing you hear in "The Best of Sugar Ray" is the word "summer"—for nothing could be more summery than this sun-kissed So-Cal band's compilation of 15 bright and breezy songs. In the words of bassist Murphy Karges: "The best way to hear this album is in a convertible with the top down on a sunny day."

Made up of vocalist Mark McGrath, guitarist Rodney Sheppard, drummer Stan Frazier, turntablist Craig "DJ Homicide" Bullock, and the aforementioned Karges, Sugar Ray (named after boxer Sugar Ray Leonard) was formed more than a decade ago. Originally a funk metal band (believe it or not), they released their first album, "Lemonade and Brownies," in 1995.

SUGAR RAY. Their compilation includes three previously-unreleased singles.

Debut

They've included two tracks from this debut in their "Best of" album—"Mean Machine" and "Rhyme Stealer." Let's just say that their moving away from metal was the best career decision they ever made.

Two years later, the band released the more successful album, "Floored." The record hit double-platinum on the strength of carrier single, "Fly." Fun, reggae-tinged, and unabashedly pop, it contrasted with the metal feel of the rest of the album, and signaled a change of course for the band.

The group's third album, 1999's "14:59," did even better. It went triple platinum and spawned three hit singles—"Someday," "Every Morning," and "Falls Apart"—all of which are among the 15 songs in "Best of." This album cemented Sugar Ray's rep as deliverers of fun, perfect-for-coasting-and-grooving music.

Success

Their self-titled fourth album was released in 2001 and debuted at No. 6. This was their first Top 10 album and was the tightest they'd ever made. But, despite the success of the hit single, "When It's Over," it didn't do as well as the previous two.

The rest of the playlist is made up of "Chasin' You Around," "Is She Really Going Out With Him?," and three previously-unreleased singles: the Howard Stern-penned "Psychedelic Bee," an enjoyable cover of Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time," and the summery "Shot of Laughter."

Despite the fillers and the uneasy-sounding early material, "The Best of Sugar Ray" is a lighthearted and just-plain-fun collection.

We'll let Karges have the last word: "Crank it up and enjoy. If you can't get to California, we'll bring it to you."

Images on our TV screens

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME Saturdays ago, we caught the cast of "Idol Ko Si Kap" saying goodbye to their regular viewers. It appeared that the sitcom had run its course, and was on its last telecast.

But, we noted that its cast members, led by Bong Revilla, weren't as tearful as other TV talents have been when their own shows bit the dust.

Well, we've just heard that, this Saturday, sitcom leads Revilla and Rufa Mae Quinto will topbill a new show, "Hocus-Pocus," which has been trotted out to replace "Idol Ko si Kap" in quick order. No wonder they weren't bawling their eyes out last week!

Segment

Meanwhile, "TV Patrol World" should be complimented for its "Citizen Patrol" segment. In this regular portion, "ordinary" citizens are invited to send in videotaped evidence of a problem in their respective neighborhoods that exposure on the popular newscast would help solve.

Gratifyingly, the newscast invariably gets the parties and government agencies involved to solve the problems that are brought to the show's attention everyday.

We particularly appreciate the "Citizen Patrol" segment because it teaches viewers that they can do something about the problems they face in their respective communities. This makes for a more proactive and engaged citizenry—and that's all to the good.

Glaring contrast

In glaring contrast to this public-service thrust, we hear that some TV channels are trying to circumvent the 18 minutes-per-hour limit for commercials, in order to make more money. If government agencies don't step in to enforce the regulation, viewers should identify this erring channels and communicate their displeasure.

After all, the limit imposed on commercial placements protects viewers' right to substantial

IMAGES/ A2-3

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Juan Pablo Dream	YEAH YEAH YEAH	103452
Updharmadown	MAYBE	103445
Updharmadown	LAZY DAISY (ASCOLTO MIX)	103446
Updharmadown	PAG-AGOS	103450
Wahiljuara	NIMBUS	103448
Wahiljuara	NUESTRA CASA	103449

ARTIST	RING NAME	RING ID
Blazing Bulalakaws	SANA NAMAN	103453
Radioactive Sago Project	ASTRO (ASCOLTO MIX)	103447
Radioactive Sago Project	ASTRO	101697
Radioactive Sago Project	GIN POMELO	101698
Radioactive Sago Project	HELLO HELLO	101699
Radioactive Sago Project	HUWAG KANG MAINGAY MAY NAGLALABA	101700
Radioactive Sago Project	KAPE	101701
Radioactive Sago Project	MASARAP	101702
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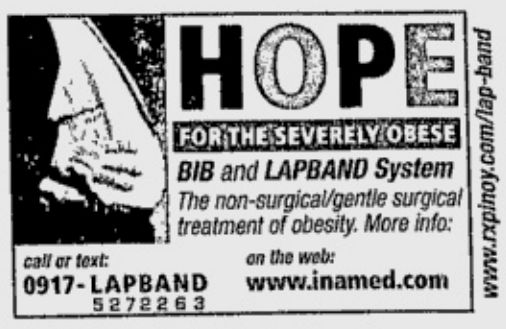


Gov't posts budget surplus in August

BIR exceeds collection target by 6%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government was expected to have recorded another budget surplus in August, estimated at close to P3 billion, following a marked recovery in the tax collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the expected surplus in August resulted in an emerging scenario where the full-year budget position would end with a deficit of only P139 billion compared with the official target of P180 billion.

The government has been working on gradually reducing its chronic deficits since the late 1990s and is hoping for a balanced budget by 2008.

The surplus in August would be the third time this year that the government made such a record. The last time the government posted a monthly surplus was in April and June.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday announced that the BIR, the biggest revenue earner among government agencies, turned in P55.1 billion in taxes for August, or 6 percent higher than the goal of P51.8 billion.

"If this trend continues, then we will have a fiscal position by yearend that is much better than target," Teves said in a press conference yesterday.

BIR Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag attributed the improvement in the tax agency's collection to tighter monitoring of revenue districts nationwide. The performance of the BIR in August was a reversal of that in July, when it recorded a collection shortfall of nearly P6 billion.

The large taxpayers' service (LTS), which covers companies included in the Top 10,000 corporations, also raked in a better-than-target collection. LTS, which accounts for about 60 percent of the BIR's total collection, contributed P30.13 billion compared with the target of P29.7 billion.

The BIR's collection for August brought its total collection for the January-to-August period to P355.8 billion, still P7.9 billion short of the P363.7-billion target for the first eight months of the year.

GOV'T/ B4

PHOTO BY VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

GAS SAVER. Jay Udasco, a California-based Filipino gets gas for his gas-conserving motor scooter at a Baguio gas station, which is promoting its products. A promo girl gamely services his vehicle to offset fears from a high court's approval of the VAT which threatens to escalate oil prices.

CAP admits fund shortfall

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED giant College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) has admitted that it would be unable to service its debts as these fall due.

In its rehabilitation petition filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court on Wednesday, CAP admitted that it had more liabilities than assets.

Based on its audited financial statements as of end-2004, CAP had P14.6 million in cash. Its total liabilities that are now due amounted to P4.1 billion, inclusive of its obligations to plan holders estimated at P1.2 billion for the first semester of school year 2005-2006.

CAP's outstanding liabilities to its corporate creditors stood at P2.9 billion.

The projected cost of tuition and other school fees for CAP's availing plan holders of approximately 174,000 (traditional open-ended plans and fixed plans) for the first semester of the school year 2005-2006 is at P1.2 billion.

Its trust fund, or the pool of assets it uses to settle claims, is val-

CAP/ B4

PESO RALLIES TO 56.10:$1

Markets cheer VAT ruling

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FINANCIAL markets yesterday cheered the Supreme Court's affirmation of the constitutionality of the expanded value-added tax, the single biggest tax measure needed to keep the government on track with its fiscal program.

The removal of the roadblock to the VAT lifted the peso to 56.10 to a dollar from Thursday's closing of 56.191 on a volume of $392.55 million.

The local currency hit an intra-day high of 56.09 and a low of 56.15 at the electronic trading floor Philippine Dealing System.

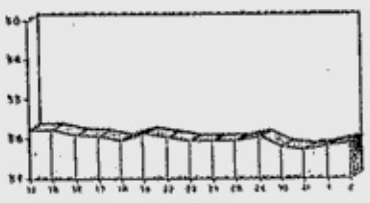
Only a few days ago, the peso neared its all-time low of 56.45 as impeachment proceedings added to jitters over skyrocketing oil prices and a sharply weakening Indonesian rupiah.

Given the continuing political uncertainties, the high tribunal's action is not expected to immediately remove the negative outlook slapped by major credit-rating agencies on the

MARKETS/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.100 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2005

¥ 109.56 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 2, 2005

GOLD: $435.40-435.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 2, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.26% higher

SHARE prices closed 0.26 percent higher yesterday in cautious trade pending a final outcome to political and economic challenges facing President Macapagal-Arroyo, dealers said.

They said a Supreme Court ruling that a crucial expanded value-added law was legal provided a little boost, ahead of a final congressional vote on impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo on Monday.

The composite index rose 4.97 points to 1,946.38, its high for the day. It hit a low of 1,940.13. Turnover reached 1.79 billion shares worth P1.2 billion.

The all-shares index gained 5.17 points to 1,181.56. Gainers beat losers 58 to 23, while 43 stocks were unchanged.

"The political overhang remains and investors do not want to be caught off guard," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc. *AFP*

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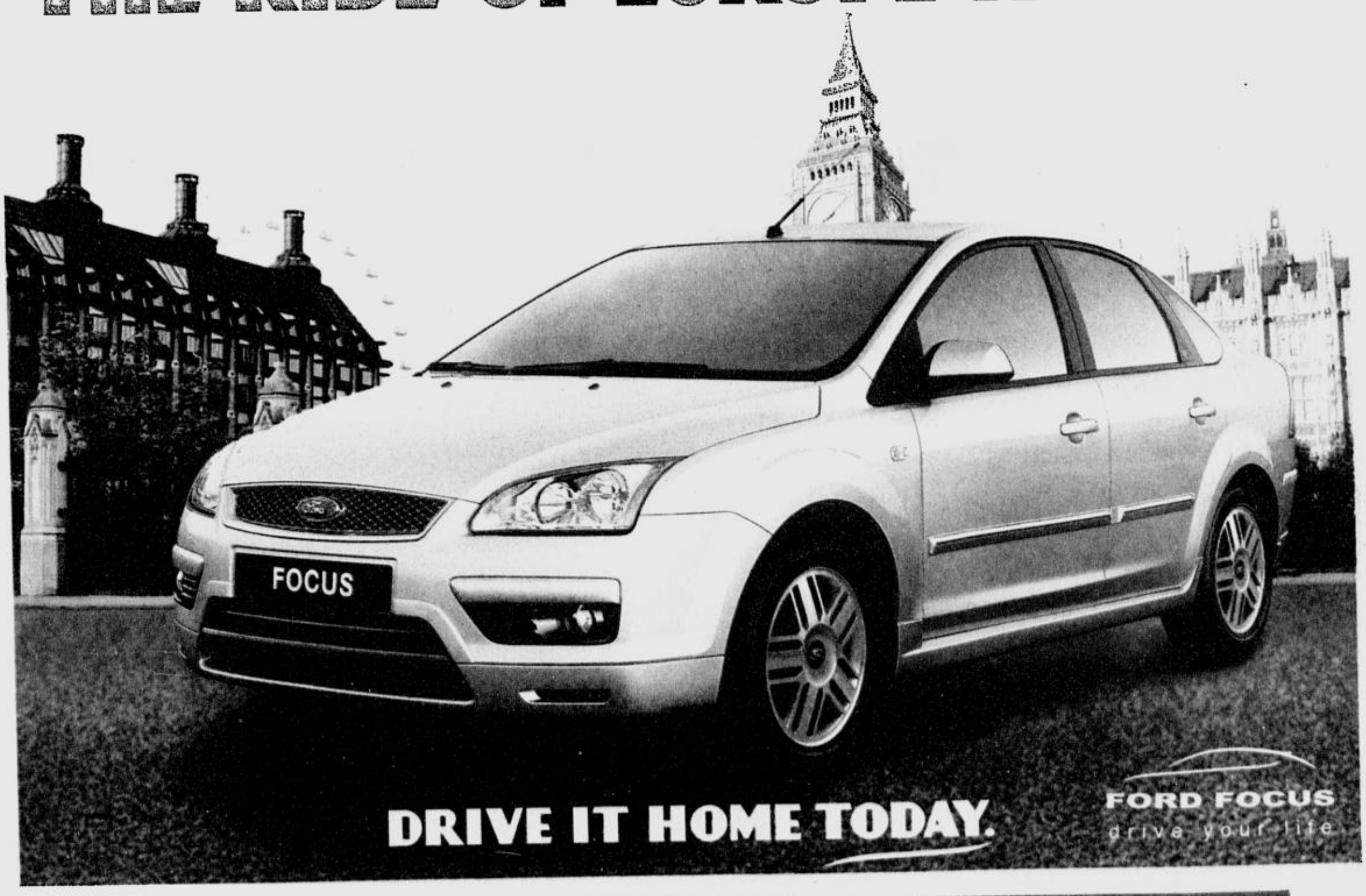

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24-HOUR EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

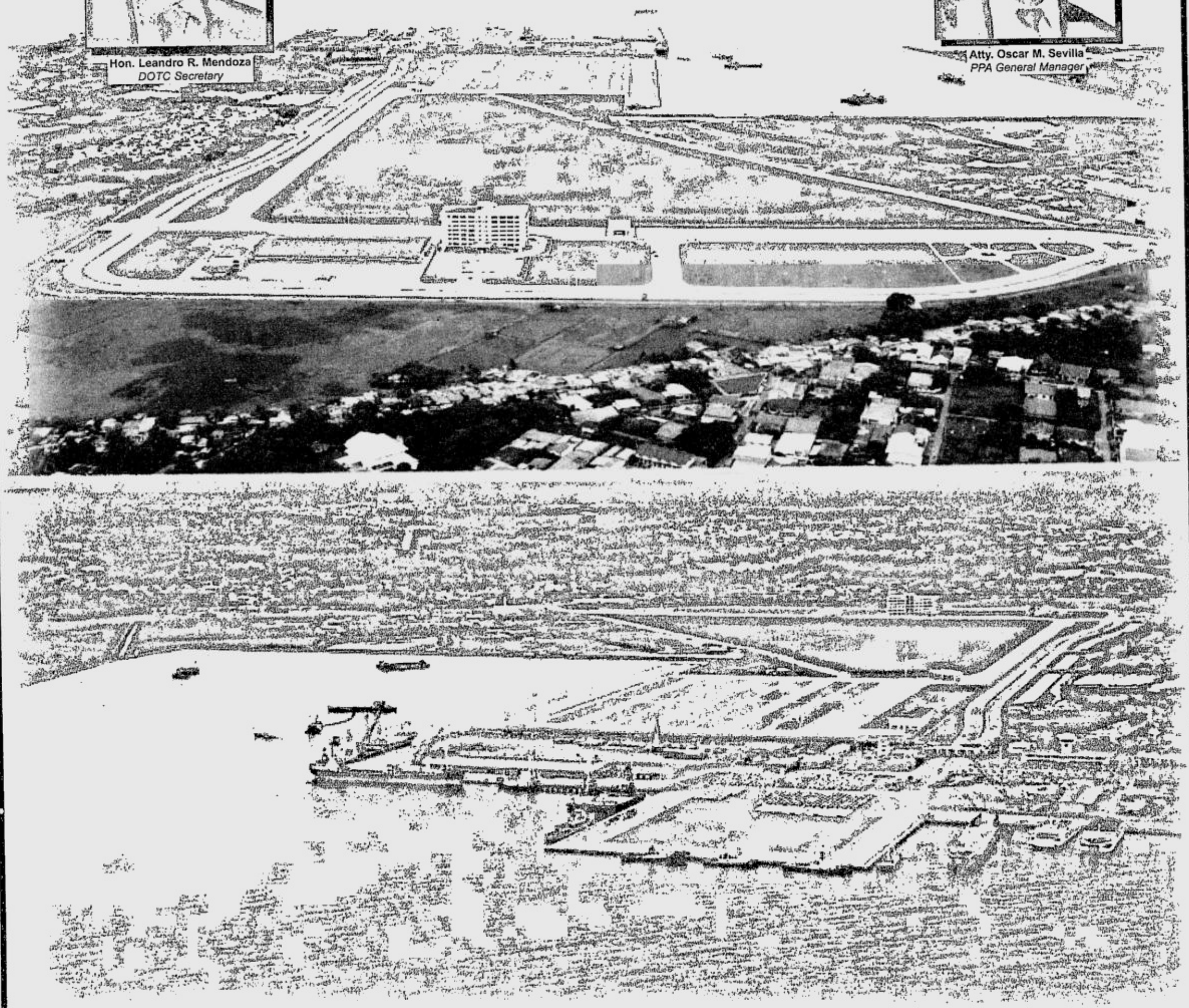
SHIMIZU, FF CRUZ TURN OVER COMPLETED MODERN PORT CONTAINER FACILITIES TO DOTC SECRETARY LEANDRO R. MENDOZA, AS CHAIRMAN OF PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND PPA GENERAL MANAGER OSCAR M. SEVILLA

P2.885-B Batangas Port project, biggest port developed in the country, has been completed ahead of schedule.

Hon. Leandro R. Mendoza
DOTC Secretary

PPA Port of Batangas: RP's New Gateway to the World

Atty. Oscar M. Sevilla
PPA General Manager



A Joint Venture of construction tycoons from Japan and the Philippines, namely: SHIMIZU CORPORATION and F.F. CRUZ & CO. INC., turned over yesterday the completed modern port container facilities at the Batangas Port, Batangas City. Built at a cost of P2.885 billion, the Batangas Port Phase II Project has been completed ahead of schedule. It will be a milestone in Philippine ports history as it is the biggest port developed in the country.

Shimizu Corporation is considered the largest construction company in Japan doing buildings and infrastructure. It is involved in a lot of overseas construction projects.

F.F. Cruz & Co., on the other hand, is a leading construction firm in the country doing roads and bridges, ports, harbor dredging and reclamation works, dams and irrigation canals and surveys.

The project was funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Batangas Port is expected to play an important role both in the national and regional development framework. It will provide access to industrial cargo trade primarily between the CALABARZON area and the rest of the country and the world, as well as serve as supplementary port to cater to cargoes which can no longer be accommodated at the Port of Manila.

The role is highlighted by the increasing industrial and commercial developments in the CALABARZON and the improvement of the land transport link between Metro Manila and Batangas Province.

The Batangas Port Project is part of the "urban beltway" under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's medium term public investment priority program and roll-on/roll off strong nautical highway scheme.

Market scrambles for RTBs; ₱40B in securities sold out

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL government yesterday morning sold out the entire P40-billion Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) less than two days since its official public offering on Wednesday.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz attributed the easy sale of the RTBs to the huge appetite of the market for government securities that cater to small investors, and to the high level of liquidity among banks.

The P40 billion raised from the debt offering would be used to fill in the government's financing requirement for 2005.

With the issuance of the RTBs, which have a five-year maturity, the Treasury would no longer auction off the regular two-, three- and four-year Treasury bonds for the remainder of the year.

Cruz said the Treasury decided to issue RTBs in place of the regular T-bonds because it was highly attractive to the public.

RTBs, unlike T-bonds, caters to small investors given that its minimum required investment is only P5,000.

He added that small investors, mostly individuals, preferred RTBs because of its quarterly coupons.

With quarterly coupons, investors get the interest on their investment every three months and then get the entire principal amount upon maturity.

The coupon rate of the five-year RTBs was set at 10.625 percent during its auction last Wednesday.

The national treasurer said the government likewise decided to borrow through RTBs to help deepen the country's capital market.

By encouraging even individuals to place their money in some form of investment was helpful in making the capital market vibrant, he added.

With the goal of involving more individuals to invest in government securities, the Treasury required dealer-banks to sell at least 40 percent of their RTB holdings to small investors rather than institutional ones.

The 45-percent cap was raised from last year's 35 percent. In July last year, the government floated and sold P42 billion worth of RTBs.

New York Life to raise RP investment to ₱4B

By Doris C. Dumlao

NEW YORK Life Insurance (Philippines) Inc., the country's eighth biggest insurer in terms of premium, has expressed its commitment to increase its investment in the Philippines to P2 billion from the current P1.4 billion over the next three years.

The foreign insurance company, which yesterday launched the "New York Life Big Apple Advantage" product, is bullish on its local business and keen on expanding through acquisitions.

Set up only four years ago, NYLife's target is to catapult itself among the country's top five insurers.

The Big Apple Advantage, which is likely to be NYL's bread and butter product in the country, is an all-encompassing insurance product that allows policyholders to secure an insurance protection of at least five times one's basic annual regular premium with maximum flexibility and a choice of various funds managed by Dutch financial giant ING Group.

Policyholders are allowed to pay on a regular item either annually, semi-annually or quarterly, depending on what is favorable to them and give them the flexibility to increase or decrease their contribution for a given year.

NYLife president George May predicted that this flexible product—which was selling like hotcakes in other markets like Europe, India and South Korea—would likely generate 70 percent of the company's business in the Philippines over the long haul.

Investments may be made in peso or US dollars. For clients not exceeding 40 years old, the minimum annual investment is P15,000 or $400. For those above 40, the minimum annual investment is P20,000 or $500.

For conservative investors who are content with a steady growth in income, the company recommends the "Peso Fixed Income Fund," which includes investments in government bonds and corporate commercial papers.

Investors who aim for higher stakes that may yield dividend or capital gains are encouraged to invest in the "Philippine Equity Fund," which invests in blue chips listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The third option is the "Managed Fund" which balances the possible risks or returns of investing in equities and includes investments in a combination of fixed income instruments and listed blue chip stocks.

RP court urged to void Lepanto contract with Australian bank

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TOP GOLD producer Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. has asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to void its contract with Australian private bank NM Rothschild & Sons Ltd.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Lepanto explained that its talks with NM Rothschild over outstanding hedging contracts had bogged down.

The PSE yesterday also allowed Lepanto to go ahead with its preemptive rights offering that could generate roughly P852.9 million for the country's oldest mining conglomerate.

Lepanto initiated the action to have the hedging contracts nullified. Lepanto's transaction with Rothschild involved monetary settlements equivalent to 97,746 ounces of gold.

"We have received notice from Rotschild demanding that we comply with our obligations under hedging contracts covering a total of 4,873 ounces of gold with a threat to declare an event of default in case of our failure to comply," said Odette Javier, Lepanto's assistant corporate secretary. "This is already the subject of the case that has been filed (with the Makati RTC)."

Lepanto earlier said it has fully repaid its $30-million long-term loan from foreign banks Rothschild and Dresdner. As of last year, Lepanto had forwarded gold contracts to sell 169,043 ounces of gold at an average price of $295 per ounce. These will mature in 2005 worth $24 million based on marked-to-market prices.

Also, Lepanto said it would use the proceeds of its rights offer to pay P850 million worth of obligations to suppliers, creditors and shareholders.

Lepanto will start offering the shares on Oct. 10 until the 20th at one rights share for every five shares held as of record date. The record date is Sept. 21.

RFM questions Selecta export ban

PNOC to pursue Malampaya project

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. remains open to the idea of extracting oil from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project if no other party will do it.

"We're ready to accept it if the development of the oil rim will be assigned to us by the (Department of Energy)," PNOC president Edgardo Mañalac said in briefing yesterday.

The project, should it be assigned to PNOC, would be done outside of the Malampaya consortium contract.

PNOC has a 10-percent stake in the Malampaya gas find.

The remaining 90 percent is split evenly between Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Malampaya.

The DOE is pushing for the extraction and development of oil reserves in the Malampaya gas find, estimated at between 25 million and 40 million barrels, to help the country cope with the continuing oil price crisis.

The two multinational Malampaya consortium members, however, refused to undertake the project as the potential oil yield from the Malampaya reserves were much smaller than their other offshore projects.

This prompted the DOE to seek other firms with technical expertise to produce oil from Malampaya.

However, Spex and Chevron Texaco required any new developer to set up a $12-billion indemnity fund to guarantee compensation for any damage to the profitability of the natural gas business.

Mañalac said the DOE would have to negotiate with the consortium members regarding this indemnity provision in the contract.

By Christine A. Gaylican

FOOD and beverage firm RFM Corp. said yesterday that it would push for the lifting of the ban imposed by Australian authorities on exports of Selecta ice cream, pointing out that all its dairy ingredients were sourced from Australia.

"Our exports of Selecta ice cream should not at all be affected by any foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) issue in the country," RFM president and CEO Jose A. Concepcion III said in a statement issued yesterday.

The Australian government earlier imposed an indefinite ban on Philippine-made ice cream products due to the incidence of FMD affecting the country's livestock.

Concepcion said the export ban was primarily due to the reclassification of the ice cream products from iced confectionery to dairy products, which meant Selecta would now have to secure an Import Dairy Permit from Australia.

"RFM will assist them in complying with all the necessary requirements to secure an import dairy permit that will enable consumers in Australia to continue to enjoy Selecta ice cream products," Concepcion said.

Concepcion said the products of Selecta—produced by a joint venture between RFM and Unilever Philippines—meet the highest standards of quality at par with international requirements.

RFM handles the export of all the joint venture's products.

"Selecta products conform with world-class standards in ice cream-making and use ingredients from Australia, New Zealand and the United States, such as milk solids and even for cheese that are found in its Quezo Real ice cream variant," Concepcion said.

Concepcion said the Philippine Selecta ice cream plant was even given an A-Rating and rated World Class by its multinational partner, Unilever.

He noted that Unilever regularly evaluates the condition of all its ice cream plants all over the world.

Concepcion added that Selecta ice cream was being exported to other countries with strict quality standards like the United States, Canada and Japan.

"It is of the same high quality Selecta ice cream that can be found here in the Philippines and in any place in the world," he said.

Manila Water

NOTICE TO
MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS
AND THE PUBLIC

The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) will increase from **P0.38** per cubic meter to **P0.46** effective September 18, 2005 based on exchange rate of P54.34 per US Dollar. In view of MWSS socialized tariff structure, the increase in water bill will only be about **4 centavos per day** for average residential customer consuming 30 cubic meters per month.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism used by utility companies that is adjusted upwards to recover losses if the peso depreciates and downwards if the peso appreciates against other currencies. Manila Water has to continue paying for the foreign exchange denominated concession fees to the MWSS, as well as loans required for its service expansion and improvement.

The increase in FCDA was approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 05-003-CA dated 1 September 2005 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2005-186 dated 1 September 2005.

Manila Water Company, the East Zone concessionaire covers the following areas: Manila (San Andres and Sta. Ana only), Quezon City (east of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mindanao Ave., Districts of Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo and Matandang Balara), Makati City (east of South Super Highway), Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, Taguig – all in Metro Manila; Rizal Province.

(PDI – September 3, 2005)

Gov't posts . . .

From page B1

Teves reported that aside from the BIR, the Bureau of Treasury collected P10.3 billion in August, more than three times higher than the P2.3-billion goal for the month.

The Bureau of Customs, however, posted a shortfall of P600 million as it generated P12.2 billion as against its target of P12.8 billion.

Other agencies turned in P5.6 billion for the month, or P200 million lower than the expected P5.8 billion.

Teves said the decision of the Supreme Court the other day to uphold the constitutionality of the expanded VAT law would further boost the government's chances of accelerating the goal of a zero budget deficit.

With the high court's decision favoring the government, the Department of Finance expects the Supreme Court to lift the temporary restraining order on Sept. 17 and to have the law implemented on or before Oct. 1.

Teves said should the law be implemented in Oct. 1, it would generate an additional P6 billion to P9 billion in revenues for the government this year.

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Special Events Schedule

SEPTEMBER 3, 2005 Saturday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Book Launching: Learning to Live and Love, Learning to Love, Love @ Sex Pag-Usapan Natin, Educational Guidance in Human Love, The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality
by Word & Life Publication

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Story Telling Activity

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 2
Stone Printing: Paperweights and Desk Signs
by The Thought Factory (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory
by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Storytelling Activity

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Lego Early Childhood /HCA Seminar
by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: Nobela at Mga Maikling Kuwento ni Edgar Reyes, Introduction to Economic Botany Pythopharmacology-Phytotherapy by Dietmar J. Rummel, Language Proficiency Training for Call Centers
by C & E Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Crystal Lamination: Trinket Boxes (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Lego Robotics Demonstration
by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Dianetics Lecture
by New Era Publications International Aps

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: ANI 31 Metaphors of Love (Talinghaga ng Puso), GROOVY: The Colors of Pacita Abad in DVD
by Cultural Center of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Hands-on-Activity (Discovery Channel Interactive)
by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Reflexology Workshop
by Bagong Henerasyon Foundation, Inc. (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching of "LEGACY, One Man to Another, Exhortations to the Men of Today from Over 50 Respected Christian Leaders and Influencers"
by Church Strengthening Ministry

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005 Sunday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Crystallized Photo Frames and Magnetic Message Holders (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo
(with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory
by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Print Lifting Images to Cotton Drink Coasters/ Mats (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet
Clay Moulding, Arts & Crafts
(with admission fee)

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Purpose of Life, Resurrection and Hereafter in Islam According to Qur'an and Risale-i Nur
by Eternal Publications Trading

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
"Meditations & Music Reflections"
Authors accompanied by invited musicians by Church Strenghtening Ministry

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle
(by invitation only)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation
by Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

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Markets cheer . . .

From page B1

Philippines' sovereign credit rating in July after the VAT was suspended and after key government economic managers quit their posts. But the much-awaited ruling affirming the validity of the VAT brought good tidings to the markets.

"This improves confidence in the country's ability to pursue its fiscal program. Of course, the credit-rating agencies are still vigilant and will be closely monitoring its implementation," said Renato Pizarro, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' executive director for investor relations.

The Supreme Court's clearance was released ahead of the meetings scheduled by the government's economic team with international investors in New York and London.

S&P analyst Agost Benard said the rating agency would first have to see whether there would be a swift and efficient implementation of all of the VAT's components.

"One of the interesting things to see is whether the rise from 10 to 12 percent (in the VAT rate) will take place. It is very promising for its potential revenue impact but we have to see how much of it will be implemented, how it will be implemented and at the end of the day, how much additional revenue will come out of this and how much of the additional revenue will be spent on deficit reduction versus an increase in spending," Benard said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 2, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	48,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	53	53.5	428,500
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.64	1,420,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	51	51	19,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	2,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	519,500
Phil. Bank Of Comm. A	80	80	80	80	44,700
Philippine National Bank	38	38	38	38	3,000
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	15,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	2,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2830	2840	2830	2840	330
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	141	141	141	141	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2050	2055	2050	2055	900
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	40,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	1,890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	745	730	745	10,080
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	55,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	3,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	68,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3	3	1,766,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1610	1615	1610	1615	173,500
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	26,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	24,200
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	23	23	228,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	6,391,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.25	1,723,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.28	54,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	200,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	8,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8.1	8	8.1	677,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	150,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	207,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.55	2,360,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	732,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.45	107,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	30.5	30.5	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	35	34.5	35	186,600
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66.5	66.5	65.5	66	24,400
San Miguel Corp. B	95	95	94.5	94.5	144,500
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	49,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	710,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	40,000,000
Ayala Corp.	295	297.5	295	297.5	46,520
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	128,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.024	0.026	24,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	76,000
APC Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	1,050,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	9,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.73	0.78	0.73	0.76	1,540,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	18,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	2,010,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	4,090,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	320,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.235	0.2	0.21	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.26	0.24	0.24	4,610,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3	3	1,473,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	402,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44	44	43	43	265,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.075	1,000,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.98	1	0.98	1	490,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.05	1.06	120,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.45	3.45	959,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	875,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.34	8,850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	480,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1.06	1	1.06	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	140,000
SM Investments Corp.	207	211	207	210	259,690
South China Resources Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	320,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.17	0.17	1,590,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	690,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	1.02	0.96	0.97	20,230,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.8	0.75	0.79	1,180,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.54	1.56	1,511,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PdR)	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	45,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.8	15,197,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	37,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	1,918,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	310,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	1,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	620,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	8,431,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	27,000,000
Atlas Cons Min & Dev't	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.6	1,103,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	30,000
Benguet Corp. B	22	22	22	22	200
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	31,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.36	0.37	0.34	0.35	3,340,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	12,740,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	177,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	105,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	200,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.87	0.92	0.87	0.88	8,120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.12	1.16	1.1	1.1	10,719,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	29	28.5	29	360,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.35	1,950,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	384,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	177,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	120,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.5	3.75	3.5	3.7	275,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.145	42,080,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.43	530,000

CURRENCIES

September 2, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.800705	1	56.207
Japan	Yen	0.00729	0.009105	0.5118
United Kingdom	Pound	1.467611	1.8329	103.0218
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103068	0.128722	7.2351
Switzerland	Franc	0.648134	0.809454	45.497
Canada	Dollar	0.676614	0.845023	47.4962
Singapore	Dollar	0.477662	0.596552	33.5304
Australia	Dollar	0.609596	0.761325	42.7918
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.123998	2.652661	149.0981
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.213504	0.266645	14.9873
Brunei	Dollar	0.476241	0.594778	33.4307
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019529	0.02439	1.3709
UAE	Dirham	0.218009	0.272272	15.3036
Euro	Euro	1	1.2489	70.1969
Argentina	Peso	0.27563	0.344234	19.3484
Brazil	Real	0.338708	0.423012	23.7762
Denmark	Kroner	0.134132	0.167518	9.4157
India	Rupee	0.018222	0.022758	1.2792
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212332	0.265182	14.9051
Mexico	New Peso	0.074567	0.093127	5.2344
New Zealand	Dollar	0.562886	0.702988	39.5128
Norway	Kroner	0.127772	0.159574	8.9692
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013417	0.016756	0.9418
South Africa	Rand	0.127165	0.158816	8.9266
Korea	Won	0.000776	0.000969	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.107382	0.134109	7.5379
Syria	Pound	0.015425	0.019264	1.0828
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024482	0.030575	1.7185
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000373	0.000466	0.0262

CAP admits fund . . .

From page B1

ued at P6.75 billion as of July 31, 2005. But of this, only P255 million or 3 percent is considered liquid or easily convertible to cash.

If CAP's bonds linked with the MRT project are considered as liquid, then 30 percent of its trust fund is readily available for payment. The MRT bonds will only start to yield returns in 2014.

CAP argued that forcing it to sell and liquidate the MRT bonds at this time to meet its present obligations would cause huge losses to its trust fund.

CAP said there was a need for the immediate suspension of payment of all claims against the company in order to allow it to be rehabilitated.

CAP has proposed under an 8-year business development plan to build up its capital to P8.36 billion and its trust fund to P14.36 billion.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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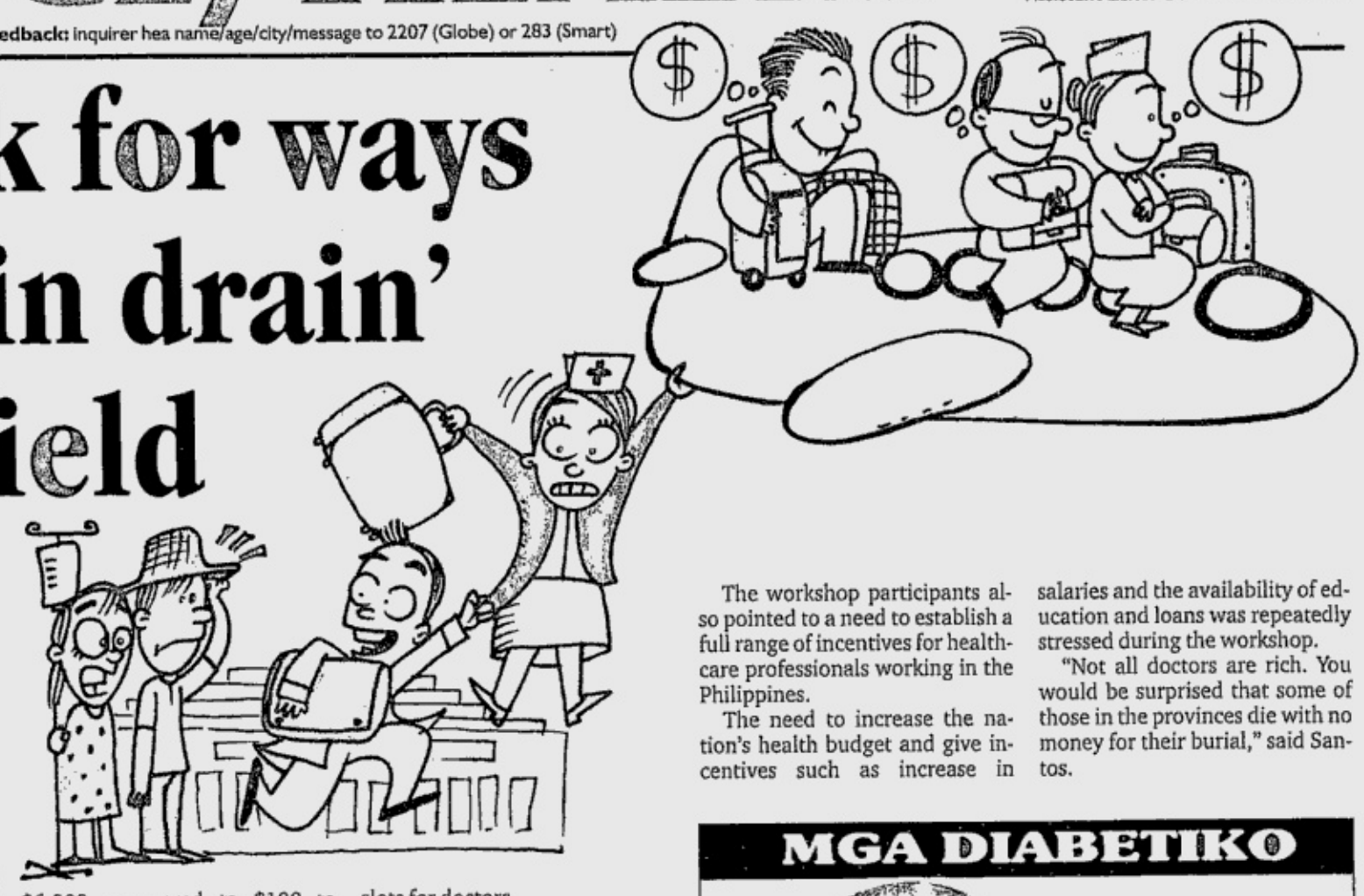
Experts look for ways to plug 'brain drain' in medical field



By Tessa R. Salazar

THE MIGRATION of health professionals is a problem in many countries, not only the Philippines. While some might think that the problem has no solution, the World Health Organization believes otherwise.

WHO scientist Raman Velayudhan said the World Health Assembly last year issued a resolution pointing out what member-countries should do about the problem. Specifically, the assembly urged the development of a good career pathway for the country's health professionals and the establishment of bilateral agreements with the countries who are recipients of the doctors so there would be a "win-win" situation for all.

Velayudhan said the "brain drain" phenomenon was such a serious international issue that it would be the focus of the 2006 World Health Day.

Benefiting from migration

"The interesting thing is that there are countries benefiting from [migration of health professionals]. South Africa and the United Kingdom have a very good agreement. UK benefits from the extra skills of doctors from South Africa. The [latter] is paid in training and replacements," he said.

Velayudhan was one 65 healthcare professionals who recently met in Quezon City for a presummit workshop on how to solve the "brain drain" crisis now besetting the Philippines. The workshop was in preparation for a summit on Sept. 24 of the country's medical professionals aiming to tackle the problem.

Exodus of nurses

During the workshop, Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan, who heads the group addressing the exodus of doctors, presented data on the phenomenon.

Tan is executive director of the National Institutes of Health and vice chancellor for research of the University of the Philippines Manila.

Tan said there were 87,852 documented nurses who left the Philippines from 1992 to 2003. He said this was a conservative estimate, as there was a possibility that those directly hired had bypassed Philippine Overseas Employment Administration documentation procedures.

He said there were more than 20,000 nursing positions available annually in about 32 countries.

Recent studies also showed that 70 percent of Filipino nursing graduates were working overseas. In the last five years, Filipino nurses have constituted the major ethno-linguistic group of migrant nurses in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Nurses in the United States get a monthly salary of $4,000 to $6,000, compared to $180 to $240 in the Philippines.

Doctor-nurses

According to the paper "Brain Drain Phenomenon and its Implications on Health" authored by Tan, Fernando Sanchez and Virginia L. Balanon, the Philippines has become a "major exporter" of nurses to the world and the second major exporter of physicians, next to India.

This phenomenon, however, is not new. The paper pointed out that in the mid-'70s, 68 percent of Filipino doctors were working outside the Philippines. What is new today is that doctors are studying to become nurses so they could work abroad.

Tan said about 3,500 medical doctors have left the country as nurses since 2000. In 2004 and 2005, 2,347 medical doctors took the nursing board exams. And the estimated number of doctors currently studying nursing was 4,000.

Healthcare experts at the workshop disclosed that Australia recently opened 20,000 slots for doctors.

"We can't supplement the number of doctors leaving. There are hospitals without doctors and nurses, and with only midwives running them. Three medical schools have closed because there are no enrollees," said Dr. Rey Mechor F. Santos, Philippine Medical Association secretary general.

Possible solutions

Tan said the participation of doctors, nurses and medical students in the summit was an indication that the country's health care professionals were still concerned about the Filipino patients.

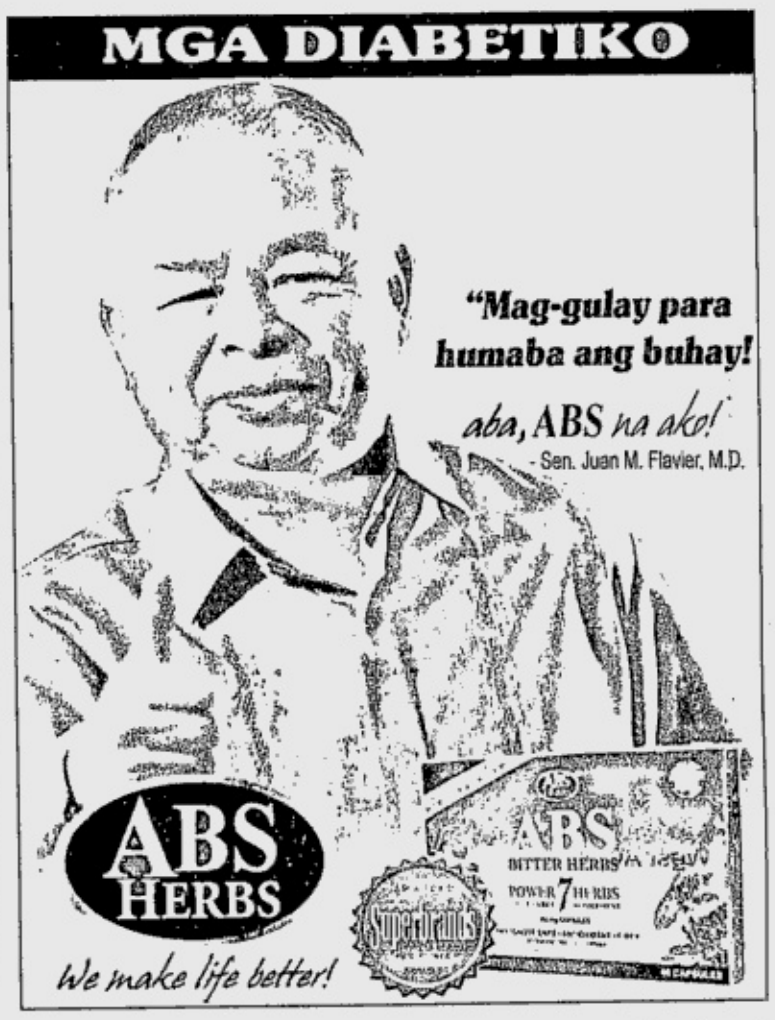
"Although our profession is besieged, we still want to give good care for the patients. We still love our country," Tan said.

One suggestion that came up during the presummit workshop was the establishment of a rotation system within the healthcare system so that some staff could go abroad for a fixed period and then come back and serve the country again.

The workshop participants also pointed to a need to establish a full range of incentives for healthcare professionals working in the Philippines.

The need to increase the nation's health budget and give incentives such as increase in salaries and the availability of education and loans was repeatedly stressed during the workshop.

"Not all doctors are rich. You would be surprised that some of those in the provinces die with no money for their burial," said Santos.



Chemist-educator Amando Kapauan

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHEN I started writing science articles, Armando F. Kapauan, Ph.D., was one of my diligent sounding boards. In the faculty lounge we would converse about time travel, lasers, evolution. I invited him to write several articles for a science magazine I used to edit. Kap was a good friend, and I treasure him even if I am not a chemistry major.

Chemist Armand Guidote was one of Kap's protégés. He writes this tribute to an outstanding mentor and researcher:

Born on July 4, 1931, Kap graduated magna cum laude from UP Diliman in 1952, with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Southern California in 1959.

In the Ateneo de Manila University Department of Chemistry, he worked on inorganic and physical chemistry, particularly on radioactive bromine. With other colleagues, he initiated investigations in the 1970s on heavy metals analysis in our environment. Kap was among the first to look into the problem of mercury in the environment, and he designed the appropriate equipment for mercury analysis in water, fish and soil.

Kap linked with international groups, taught one of the first environmental chemistry courses in the country, and involved himself in policies on urban-rural planning.

Chemical instrumentation

Kap later went into the field of electronics, specifically chemical instrumentation. Together with Fr. William Schmitt, S.J., they pioneered the maintenance, design and modification of these.

Kap's first publication appeared in the Journal of Chemical Education (probably the foremost journal in Chemical Education then and now) in May 1973.

He also started to interface traditional instruments with the increasingly popular PC. By the 1980s, his students were designing software for them, including Fourier Transform of signals. He redesigned a spectrophotometer with vacuum-tube technology into one with solid-state technology, run by a PC with software written by his students.

He designed and built new electrochemical systems, which merited publications in Analytical Chemistry (the leading journal of analytical chemistry worldwide). This was an honor considering that these were the few, if not the only, international publications done by one Filipino, entirely in the Philippines.

He continued to find applications for these electrochemical systems, dreaming that they might be distributed to data stations all over the country for trace analysis of metals and for mapping of water quality.

Kap was ahead of his time. He was one of the founders of the Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry, and one of the architects of the Ph.D. program of the UP-Ateneo-DLSU Chemistry Consortium. He moved into environmental concerns and microelectronics in the infant stages of their applications in chemistry.

Excellent teacher

Kap was not only a good scientist but also also an excellent teacher. His basic tenet was "Do Science"— a reflection of the training he received from Arellano High School (1948).

He wrote a college textbook, "General Chemistry," with Amando Clemente and Antonio I. de Leon. He made "Cardboard Orbital Domain Models" and published this in J. Chem. Ed. in August 1966.

His 1967 Unesco stint in Thailand brought together a series of innovative experiments for "lab-less" high schools, which was eventually published as a book, "Creative Chemistry."

Kap replaced expensive equipment with materials he bought from the grocery, hardware, photo supply and the drugstore. He taught his students to do audio-visuals, including 8-mm animated films, molecular models, and computer-aided instruction.

Above all, Kap was a good person. He lived simply and dressed simply. He was fair and just. He showed concern for individuals, giving his presence and his help whenever it was needed and wanted.

He was a Renaissance man. He could discuss science, philosophy, literature, music, movies and food with ease and depth. He played the flute and the guitar.

Kap loved his work, but he loved his family more. He showed dedication and tenderness, especially during the years when his wife, Paz, was stricken ill with Parkinson's disease.

He was proud of his children. He would often talk about AQ's research at the Bell Laboratories, Dodi's business in computers, Hilda's artistry, and Vivian's skill in handling special children. He would mention with grandfatherly pride Niki's eloquence (which he said probably came from the maternal grandfather), Sandra's poetry, and Alex's playfulness.

Kap died on Oct. 12, 1996, but his legacy lives on.

A NEED FOR GOOD DIGESTION
By: Dr. Mario Ramirez

The food we eat such as meat, bread and vegetables are not in a form the body can use as nourishment. Everything we eat or drink, other than water, must be changed into smaller molecules of nutrients before they can be absorbed and carried by the blood stream to cells throughout the body.

Digestion is the process by which our body breaks down the food that we eat into smaller molecules so the body may use the nutrients to build, nourish and provide energy for the cells.

The digestive tract starts in the mouth where we begin the digestive process by the mechanical chewing of food. Enzymes are secreted to start the chemical process of nutrient breakdown. The glands that act first in the mouth are the salivary glands. Saliva produced by these glands contains an enzyme, amylase, which begins to digest the starch from food into smaller molecules.

Digestion is continued, as we chew and swallow, into the stomach and is completed in the small intestines.

There is a muscular movement which mixes food and liquid which further aids in digestion. This movement is called peristalsis. It pushes the food down the digestive tract.

Glands of the digestive system are crucial to the process of digestion. They produce both the juices that break down the food and the hormones that help to control the process.

As it enters the stomach, digestive acids and enzymes are secreted to breakdown protein. After the stomach empties the food and its juice into the small intestine, the juices of two other digestive organs mix with the food to continue the process of digestion. One of these organs is the pancreas. It produces a juice that contains a wide array of enzymes to break down the carbohydrates, fat, and protein in our food. Other enzymes that are active in the process come from glands in the wall of the intestine or even a part of that wall.

The liver produces yet another digestive juice--bile. The bile is stored between meals in the gallbladder. At mealtime, it is squeezed out of the gallbladder into the bile ducts to reach the intestine and mix with the fat in our food. The bile acids dissolve the fat into the watery contents of the intestine, much like detergents that dissolve grease from a frying pan. After the fat is dissolved, it is digested by enzymes from the pancreas and the lining of the intestine.

Undigested food is brought to the large intestine where no further digestion takes places. The waste product is expelled through the anus as feces.

The process of digestion is a complex one. Any alteration in acid or enzyme secretion would inevitably lead to digestive problems particularly indigestion which may present as bloating, abdominal discomfort and pain. This also leads to incomplete nutrient absorption since food is not digested properly.

Like all other bodily functions, we need a good digestion in order to provide our body with proper nutrients. Therefore, a good digestion is the basic essential of life and health.

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Dynamic Trio + Enzymeminerals is a powerful combination of three amazing health products from the beehive – Bee Pollen, Bee Propolis and Royal Jelly (each has its own healing and rejuvenating benefits to man but when combined together they exert a very remarkable synergistic effect) **PLUS** the enzyme needed by our body which is necessary for the digestion of food, releasing valuable vitamins, minerals, amino acids which keep us alive and healthy.

Aside from the three amazing health products from the beehive, our DT + Enzymeminerals also has:

BROMELAIN is a protein-processing enzyme that aids in the digestion while enhancing the absorption of nutrients from food. It can also help reduce pain and swelling due to arthritis or injury, similar to nonsteroidal or anti-flammatory drugs but without their gastrointestinal side effects.

PAPAIN is the chief ingredient in meat tenderizers, which work on food before it reaches the stomach. It is also an essential enzyme in the digestion and absorption of proteins to release the much-needed amino acids needed for the healthy functioning of the body.

MINERALS are group of elements that are included among the six important nutrients needed by man. They are necessary for energy, organ function, cell growth and food utilization. There are 18 minerals required by the body for maintenance and regulatory

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Potent drug vs hepatitis B introduced

By Cesar D. Mangawang

DOCTORS now have an important new medication to treat chronic hepatitis B by suppressing viral replication and the risk of developing liver disease. This latest treatment option is entecavir, which is considered the most potent oral antiviral drug for hepatitis to date.

The new treatment was made known in Bali, Indonesia, where a distinguished group of medical experts strengthened the fight against one of Asia Pacific region's most threatening chronic disease.

This is good news for the 300 million people living in the region and infected with hepatitis B, a potentially life-threatening viral infection that may lead to liver disease.

Another encouraging news is that the new effective treatment would be soon available in the region.

Other approved drugs

This brings to five the number of approved drugs doctors can prescribe for their patients who have chronic hepatitis B.

These drugs include lamivudine and adefovir dipivoxil, both are pills taken once a day. The primary concern of lamivudine is the possible development of hepatitis B virus mutants during and after treatment. Adefovir dipivosil is primarily concerned with kidney toxicity occurring while taking the drug.

The two other treatments are interferon-alpha and pegylated interferon, both given by injection but vary on the number of times they are administered in a week. The side effects of these drugs include flu-like symptoms and depression.

Entecavir efficacy

Based on data from three studies presented at the Bali meeting, entecavir was found to be superior or comparable to lamivudine in a wide variety of patients chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV).

Included in the study are patients with compensated liver disease who were starting antiviral treatment for the first time (nucleoside-naive); had received prior antiviral treatment (other than entecavir); and those who were refractory to lamivudine (defined as nonresponsive, relapsed or resistant).

Another study found that after one year of treatment, there was no evidence of resistance to entecavir in the nucleoside-naive hepatitis B patient group.

Phase 3 studies analyzed the efficacy of entecavir in treating a variety of patients with chronic hepatitis B infection. Among them were both hepatitis B e-antigen (HBeAg)-positive and HBeAg-negative nucleoside-naive patients and lamivudine-refractory patients.

Patients who are HBeAg-positive show deterioration of liver function, cirrhosis and liver cancer and account for 25-40 percent of patients who are chronically infected. Patients who are HBeAg-negative have disease characterized by a progressive course of severe liver damage with a poor long-term prognosis and frequent progression to cirrhosis and liver cancer.

In a statement on the management of chronic hepatitis B, Asia Pacific liver experts clarified that "sustained viral suppression is the key to reduction or prevention of hepatic injury and disease progression. Therefore, the primary goal of treatment for chronic hepatitis B is to eliminate of permanently suppress HBV."

First in Asia Pacific

It was also during the Bali meeting of liver experts that Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. announced that Indonesia has approved Baraclude (entecavir) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B virus infection.

An oral antiviral therapy specifically designed to block the replication of hepatitis B virus in the liver, Baraclude will be available in Indonesia in the last quarter of this year.

More than half a million people worldwide die each year from primary liver cancer, and up to 80 percent of primary liver cancers are caused by hepatitis B.

Viral load is a key predictor of progression to serious liver diseases and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC or liver cancer). The higher the viral load the greater the risk of developing cirrhosis and HCC.

The US Food and Drug Adminstration approved Baraclude for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B infection in adults in March this year.

FAST FACTS

- Worldwide, more than two billion people (one out of three people) have been infected with hepatitis B. About 350 to 400 million people worldwide are chronically infected with hepatitis B, out of which 75 percent reside in Asia.
- More than half a million people die each year from liver cancer and 80 percent of liver cancers are caused by hepatitis B. This is equivalent to 2,700 deaths/day, 114 deaths/hour, and 2 deaths/minute due to hepatitis B.
- In China, some 120 million people are infected with chronic hepatitis B. Of these people, about 600,000 people die of liver cancer each year.
- China accounts for 50 percent of the liver cancer deaths worldwide.
- Each year, 380,000 deaths are from countries in Eastern Asia (China, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea).
- In India, it is estimated that one in 20 people is chronically infected with hepatitis B virus, with one percent of total deaths in adults in India due to hepatitis B virus.
- An estimated 6 percent of the Singaporean population, or approximately 250,000 people, are chronically infected with hepatitis B virus.

Fight vs colon cancer continues

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

I ALWAYS remember my dear late brother Greg when new developments in colon cancer are reported. He was diagnosed to have colon cancer at 56, and he fought it courageously to the very end, 40 months from the time of diagnosis. He would always tell me that he was confident a breakthrough treatment for cancer would be discovered someday and although he wouldn't be around anymore, he would be happy for those who would benefit from it.

He endured without complaint the many bothersome side effects of chemotherapy: falling hair, severe vomiting, and inflamed gums and mouth rashes that made even sipping fluid unbearable. We thought for a while his cancer had been beaten. He was cancer-free for more than a year, but the it crept back insidiously with a vengeance, and not even the best that western medicine could offer then could lick the disease.

Recently, European authorities approved capecitabine, an innovative oral chemotherapy, as adjuvant treatment (postsurgery) for colon cancer. The drug has been shown to prolong cancer-free survival with less serious side effects compared to standard treatment.

Stage 3 colon cancer

Adjuvant chemotherapy is a standard treatment approach for stage 3 colon cancer to destroy cancer cells remaining in the body after the tumor has been surgically removed.

The landmark X-ACT (Capecetabine in Adjuvant Colon Cancer Therapy) trial, the results of which were published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology 2004, showed that capecitabine was as effective as intravenous 5-fluorouracil/leucovofin (5-FU/LV) in improving disease-free survival, with a superior reduction in the risk of cancer recurrence.

On the average, a patient only needed eight hospital visits when treated with capecitabine, compared to 30 visits if treated with 5-FU/LV.

In 2004, about 88,000 patients in Europe who had advanced colorectal or breast cancer benefited from capecitabine.

Based on the approved new indication, approximately 55,000 colon cancer patients a year can now be also treated with this effective and better-tolerated oral treatment.

Risk factors

The strongest risk factor for colon cancer is age. The incidence rates rise from 10 per 100,000 at age 40-45 to 300 per 100,000 at age 75-80. The cumulative lifetime risk for the disease is 1 in 20.

Men, more than women, are likely to develop colon cancer as are people who are smokers, drinkers, red meat eaters, sedentary and obese.

There is a higher incidence of polyps in people who have diets low in fruits, vegetables, protein from vegetable sources, and roughage. Those smoking more than 20 cigarettes a day are 250 percent more likely to have polyps compared to nonsmokers. Alcohol drinkers have an 87 percent increased likelihood of having polyps compared to nondrinkers. And those who both smoke and drink are 400 percent more likely to develop polyps compared to nonsmokers and nondrinkers.

Polyps tend to cluster in families, so having a first degree relative (sibling, parent or child) with colon polyps raises one's chances of having them, too.

Cancer risk is associated with meat, fat or protein consumption which is believed to break down in the gut into carcinogens.

A personal history of ovarian, endometrial, or breast cancer also appears to be a risk factor.

There is increasing evidence that having diets high in calcium can reduce the risk of colorectal cancer. Eating vegetables is an even more potent agent in preventing colon cancer. Fibers and the phytochemicals in vegetables act to prevent cancer.

People who exercise daily are less likely to develop colon cancer.

It is important to undergo colon cancer screening because most of those who have colon cancer either have no symptoms or have very nonspecific symptoms until the cancer has become advanced.

I'm happy for friends and relatives who still do well years after their colon tumor has been removed. Colon cancer does not grow overnight and with modern ways to detect it, early surgery can be curative and five-year survival can be as high as 90 percent to 100 percent.

Cancer, fries and lots of salt

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

CANCER is a scary word. It conjures images of tumors and prolonged hospital stays and pain, and sometimes even the crab symbol in the Zodiac that gave the disease its name when the Greek physicians Hippocrates and Galen observed that cancerous growths looked like the crustacean.

It is not surprising to find that Googling the disease in conjunction with anything else usually leads to the discovery that everything is likely to be a carcinogen.

Two weeks ago, when people Googled the words "French fries" and "cancer," several dozen websites popped up, discussing a paper that appeared in the Aug. 10 online edition of the International Journal of Cancer.

According to the Web articles, the study, led by Karin Michels, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School and a clinical epidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, found that children who had an extra serving of French fries each week while they were between the ages of 3 and 5 increased their risk for breast cancer by 27 percent.

The fault lies on the high levels of saturated and trans fats used when deep frying the fries, and the presence of acrylamide, a known carcinogen.

2,000 women

Back in 1993, Michels et al. contacted several participants from the Nurses' Health Studies I and II and used the approximately 2,000 women respondents as their own study participants. The women were born between 1921 and 1965, and about 25 percent had been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Michels et al. contacted the mothers of these women and asked them to fill out a questionnaire on 30 items their children might have eaten when they were between 3 and 5. These included ice cream, apples, oranges, chicken, liver, broccoli, cookies, bread, meat and milk.

Bear in mind that in 1993, these mothers were between 50 and 80 years. How they could remember how much their children ate decades ago is a question worth asking.

Filling the blanks

Not surprisingly, the researchers got back questionnaires with gaps. Only 700 mothers could remember everything they fed their children and how often.

To fill in the blanks in the forms, Michels et al. used multiple imputation, wherein five sets of possible values were generated, running the range of possible answers. The data were combined in a way that would account for all the variability involved.

The researchers calculated the cancer risk for each of the 30 foods based on the nutrients in the foods, the intake levels and the adult risk factors for breast cancer such as age, weight and family history.

Milk vs fries

They found that drinking an extra glass of whole milk lowered the risk of breast cancer and that eating extra servings of French fries led to the most increased risk of breast cancer.

"The observed association between consumption of French fries and breast cancer risk may have resulted from bias or chance," Michels et al. conclude. "Because mothers were asked to recall their daughters' preschool diet after their case status was known, differential recall has to be considered as a possible explanation."

"In case mothers overestimated the food consumed that were considered 'unhealthy,' consumption of hot dogs and ice cream would be expected to have been overestimated along with...French fries."

(Actually, hot dogs and ice cream rank somewhere in the middle of the list.)

So should French fries be banned? Not based on this study.

It's also worth noting that the articles on the study do not explain what constitutes an extra serving of French fries.

The study itself raises an issue: given that French fries became extremely popular food in the middle of the 20th century when fast food and various deep frying methods took off, if the women in the study born before the 1950s had breast cancer because they had those extra servings of fries during their childhood, how much greater would the risk be for those born later who grew up thinking of fries as healthy vegetables?

Maybe Michels et al. will work on that next.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Strong silver filling

MY white filling came out two days after my dentist put it in but the gray fillings I have had for years are still there. Should I request a gray filling next time?—Julie F.

As far as strength is concerned, a gray or silver filling is stronger than a white filling. That is why silver fillings last for years. If a white filling comes out after a few days, it's possible that your tooth accidentally got wet with your saliva during the dental procedure. White fillings will not stick if the tooth is wet. It is also possible that you had a high bite on that filling that the dentist was not able to adjust.

If you would like to give the white filling another chance, your dentist only has to redo it and make sure your tooth is dry during the procedure and adjust the filling to your bite.

Preventing loss of vision in diabetics

DIABETES is one of the most prevalent diseases today. In 1995, there were some 135 million adult diabetics in the world and in 2025 the number is expected to increase to 300 million. A 1996 study by the Philippine Diabetes Association reveals that the blood sugar level among Filipinos increases after the age of 40.

Diabetes is a disease that occurs when the pancreas does not secrete enough insulin or the body is unable to process it properly. Insulin is the hormone that regulates the level of sugar (glucose) in the blood. There are two types of diabetes: type 1 (juvenile diabetes) and type 2 (sometimes called adult-onset diabetes).

Many factors contribute to the high prevalence of type 2 diabetes: aging population, imbalanced diet, increased sugar consumption and poor blood sugar control.

Good vision

Diabetes gives birth to many complications such as diseases affecting the heart, kidneys, the nerves and even the eyes. The most common eye complication is diabetic retinopathy. It occurs when the tiny blood vessels in the retina, the light sensitive tissue at the back of the eye, becomes damaged.

The disease is the principal cause of blindness in industrialized countries. As many as 50 million people worldwide are affected with some form of diabetic retinopathy, 2.5 million of whom are already blind.

The symptoms of diabetic retinopathy vary depending on the stage of the disease, but the most common are blurred vision, floaters, flashes and sudden loss of vision.

2 ways

Blindness may occur in two ways. First, fragile, abnormal blood vessels may develop and leak blood into the center, thereby affecting vision. Second, fluid may leak into the center of the macula, the part of the eye where sharp vision occurs. The fluid causes swelling of the macula, resulting in blurred vision.

Unfortunately for diabetics, the disease often has no early warning signs. Reduced visual acuity occurs during the advanced stage of the disease and it usually affects both eyes.

Around 74 percent of diabetics are afflicted by an eye disease, sometimes without the patients being aware of it. Furthermore, the management of patients who have diabetic retinopathy can be expensive, with costs going as high as $500 million a year in the United States.

Complete eye exam

It is, therefore, a must for all diabetics to have a complete eye exam by an ophthalmologist at least once a year. This may include the visual acuity test, the dilated eye exam (where drops are placed in the eye for retina examination) and the internal eye exam using an ophthalmoscopy. If the results show that the patient has diabetic retinopathy, he is referred to a retina specialist, who will recommend the treatment to arrest the progression of the disease.

Treatment of the disease may include medicines, laser surgery or conventional surgery. The patient will also be required to learn to control his blood sugar level, blood pressure and blood cholesterol. Timely treatment and follow-up care will help in the management of diabetic retinopathy and prevent vision loss, thus giving diabetics a chance to lead happy, normal lives.

WEAP workshop on new Clean Water Act rules

THE WATER Environment Association of the Philippines (WEAP) will conduct a seminar-workshop on "Alternative Water and Wastewater Treatment Systems and Water Reuse" on Sept. 9-10 at Hotel Supreme Conversion Plaza on Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City.

Engineer Carlito M. Santos Jr., WEAP president, said the seminar will discuss newly approved wastewater treatment systems, the various water reuse options and design consideration of sanitary sewer systems.

Low-cost wastewater treatment, Santos said, will cover technologies such as constructed wetlands, waste stabilization ponds, aerated lagoons and anaerobic sludge digester.

The seminar also aims to update water district engineers and managers with procedures involved in georesistivity survey of groundwater supply, important water quality criteria in the design of water treatment systems and distribution aspects in water sewer system.

For queries, call Joy Macasaya at 371-9790 or 410-1119.

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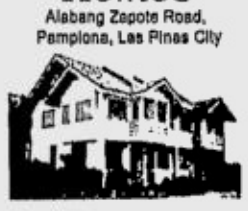

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AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR of 2230 M. Roxas St. Sta Ana Manila Auction Sale on Sept. 12, 2005, Mon. at 2:30 in the afternoon. Respectively, Apr. 14 - May 12, 2005 SONS of J. LANUZA. Auctioneer. (PDI - Sept. 3, 2005)

MARA PAWNSHOP
I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. AUCTION SALE on SEPT. 12, 2005, Mon. at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30, and 1:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively Apr. 14 - May. 12, 2005.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer (PDI - Sept. 3, 2005)

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SUZUKI Auto Quezon Avenue
Tel 374-3911* 411-2720
Lily 0916-3710377
Fausto 0920-3059412

SUZUKI Auto Cabanatuan
Tel:(044)600-1657*464-2878
Adrian 0917-5668380
Rommel 0919-7957168

SUZUKI Auto Balilusg
Tel:(044)766-0919*766-2545
Richard 0917-2051986
Eric 0916-2850239

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

A PUBLIC ADVISORY
FROM BAYANTEL:
PLEASE BE INFORMED OF THE LOST OF A BAYANTEL OFFICIAL RECEIPT BOOKLET WITH SERIES NUMBERS : 318001 up to 318050. ANY TRANSACTIONS PERTAINING TO THE CORRESPONDING LOST AND INVALID RECEIPTS WILL NOT BE HONORED.
(PDI-Sept 3, 2005)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
7 FEMALE BOOKKEEPERS
Accounting Graduate, Age 20-28
Bring bio-data w/ picture, transcript
DK & ASSOCIATES
1473 G. Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. No. 255-8656, 233-7910

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARNULFO B. AURELLANO has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 341, Page No. 69, Book No. 1, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Agapito F. Fajardo, Jr. of Quezon City. (PDI-Sept. 3, 10, & 17 2005)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VICTOR E. BALOTA IS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY AND AMONG HIS HEIRS PER DOC. NO. 98 PAGE NO. 20 BOOK NO. XIX SERIES 2005 OF NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. PEPITO G. PO OF MAKATI CITY METRO MANILA (PDI SEPT. 3,10 & 17, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW CONSIGN 09178630002

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late JESUSIMO V. DELA CRUZ, was the subject of extrajudicial settlement. With Special Power of Attorney by his heirs as per Doc. No. 199 Page No. 40, Book No. 1, Series of 2005 of Atty. Raul R. Corro, City of Muntinlupa.
Aug 20 27 & Sept 3, 2005

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

5 telesales Reps;male, 25-50 yrs. old, hardworking and must speak English fluently, Php20,000/mo. Fax resume to 752-4156

FEMALE

DENTAL ASSOCIATE F, Single T - 7244588 / 8332168

Expd. ACCOUNTING CLERK 204 Katipunan QC 4395095

•SINGLE LADY DENTIST 8442083•

URGENTLY NEEDED:ACCOUNTING STAFF
Qualifications:
>Female between 21-28 years old
> Accounting major
Please contact Honeylin or Edong at tel nos 637-4597 or 687-5913(1:00PM to 7:00PM)

XPRNCD Masahiata 6691069

MALE/FEMALE

DEP ED MARIKINA CITY
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High Quality salesman to sell executive job placements, Php 18,000 plus commision. Fax resume to Mr. Ruiz at 868-6298

NEED DENTIST URGENT 8732872

CALL POEA
24-HOUR HOTLINES
722-1144
or
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Ground Floor, CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

CASE NO. 05-015

NOTICE

FOR PERMANENT CHANGE IN SAILING FREQUENCY/SCHEDULE PURSUANT TO SECTION 9 RULE IV OF THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) OF THE REPUBLIC ACT (R.A.) 9295

NOTE: Should be applied at the MRO where the CPC was issued.

Applicant : OCEAN FAST FERRIES, INC.
Office Address : Pier 1, CPA Bldg., Cebu City
CPC Issued on : March 16, 2005 Valid Until: March 16, 2020
Name of Representative : CECILIO T. BARUC
Name of Ships covered by the Entity/Company/CPC : M/V Ocean Jet 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6

Authorized Routes/Links per Entity/Company CPC :

Cebu City-Tubigon, Bohol and vice-versa; Ilo-ilo City-Bredco Z. Bacolod City and vice-versa; Bredco 2, Bacolod City-Ilo-ilo City and vice versa; Cebu-Tagbilaran-Dumaguete-Dapitan-Dumaguete-Tagbilaran-Cebu; Cebu-Maasin-Surigao-Maasin-Cebu and vice versa; Larena-Tagbilaran-Cebu-Tagbilaran-Cebu-Tagbilaran-Larena and vice-versa; Larena-Dumaguete-Tagbilaran-Cebu-Tagbilaran-Cebu-Tagbilaran-Dumaguete-Larena and vice-versa; Hilongos-Cebu-Tagbilaran-Cebu-Tagbilaran-Cebu-Hilongos and vice-versa; Cebu-Tagbilaran-Larena-Plaridel-Larena-Tagbilaran-Cebu and vice-versa. Cebu-Tagbilaran-Dumaguete-Tagbilaran-Cebu; Larena-Dumaguete-Larena-Dumaguete-Tagbilaran-Cebu; Dumaguete-Larena-Dumaguete-Tagbilaran; Hilongos-Cebu-Tubigon-Cebu-Camotes-Cebu-Tubigon-Cebu-Hilongos;

Proposed Sailing Frequencies/Schedules:

"Please see attached schedule of trips in a separate sheet"

Date of Implementation of Previous Change in Sailing Frequency(cies)/ Schedule: **August 31, 2005**

Date of Effectivity (which shall be based/calculated on the date of publication and posting):

September 12, 2005

Requirements/Conditions:

1. The shipowner/operator shall cause the publication of this Notice in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation, if the routes/ areas of operation to be affected by the permanent change in sailing frequencies/scheduled in national and/ on inter-regional in scope. If the routes to be affected in local or intra-regional in scope, publication in newspaper of local circulation is sufficient;
2. The shipowners/operators shall likewise cause the posting of this Notice, including the date of effectivity, in all conspicuous places at the affected ports, ships, company premises, passenger terminals and ticketing offices, as applicable;
3. The MARINA shall cause the posting thereof at the MARINA Central or Regional office and/or the MARINA website; and,
4. The new sailing frequency(cies)/schedule shall take effect seven (7) calendar days from the publication in accordance with aforecited requirements/condition number 1.

VERIFICATION & CERTIFICATION

I, **CECILIO T. BARUC**, of legal age, married and resident of Cebu City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, hereby depose and say, THAT:

1. I have caused the preparation of the foregoing notice,
2. I have read the contents of said notice, the contents of which are true and correct to best of my knowledge.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 30th day of August 2005, at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **CECILIO T. BARUC**
Duly Authorized Representative of Applicant

(PDI - Sept. 3, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Repair and Rehabilitation of FDC Equipment

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P2,000,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *repair/rehabilitation of various FDC Equipment*, as follows:

Item No.	Particulars	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Repair and rehabilitation of Chiller	1 lot	340,000.00
2	Repair and rehabilitation of Storage Freezer	1 lot	390,000.00
3	Rehabilitation of Boiler Proper for Miura Boiler Model EU-750, PDN No. 1706465	1 lot	735,000.00
4	Rehabilitation of Boiler Proper for Miura Boiler TX-300, PDN No. 6301572	1 lot	535,000.00
	TOTAL		2,000,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *repair and rehabilitation of various FDC Equipment*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on** ***September 13, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the ***NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*** **on September 28, 2005** from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on ***September 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons — *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address — *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No. — *(632) 712-0454*
E-mail Address — *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. — *(632) 712-0454*
Website — *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Aug. 20 & Sept. 3, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building of Kidapawan, North Cotabato and General Santos City

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) No. C-04-04816 dated December 15, 2004, intends to apply the following amount, to wit:

Project	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Contract Duration
RD - Kidapawan, North Cotabato	P4,320,000.00	5 mos.
RD - General Santos City	P5,000,000.00	5 mos.

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction of the above Infrastructure projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

LRA now invites potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction of the Registry of Deeds Building of Kidapawan, North Cotabato and General Santos City. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum requirements stated in the eligibility forms. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on or before **September 14 2005.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, on or before **September 5-8, 2005** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) PESOS.** They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility documents, in order for these to be received by the BAC Secretariat in the same address, on or before **September 14, 2005.**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Land Registration Authority and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. on **September 22-23, 2005.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by the Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: THREE THOUSAND (P3,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **September 22-23, 2005.**

The LRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **September 26, 2005** at the LRA Multi-Purpose Hall, 5/F LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City at the following schedule, to wit:

Project	Time
RD - Kidapawan, North Cotabato	10:00 a.m.
RD - General Santos City	1:30 p.m.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the above address on or before **October 10, 2005** at the following schedule, to wit:

Project	Time
RD - Kidapawan, North Cotabato	10:00 a.m.
RD - General Santos City	1:30 p.m.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall then follow after each submission on **October 10, 2005.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.

LRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

18 August 2005 at Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **RONALD A. ORTILE**
Chairman
LRA Bids and Awards Committee on Infrastructure
5/F LRA Building
East Avenue corner NIA Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. 9244733

(PDI - Aug. 20 & Sept. 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR),
Loan No.: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works: Construction and Development of a. Linear Park along Brgy. Napindan, City of Taguig

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for Brgy. Napindan South-Linear Park (Contract No. EPA-LPP-31a) and Brgy. Napindan North Linear Park (Contract No. EPA-LPP-31b).
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Packages	Construction and Development of Brgy. Napindan South and North Linear Park Projects (Contract No. EPA-LPP-31a/ EPA-LPP-31b)
Contract Nos.	EPA-LPP-31a/ EPA-LPP-31b
Areas	91,321 sqm./ 190,150 sqm.
Location	Brgy. Napindan, City of Taguig
Contract Duration	180 calendar days per Contract Package
Project Description	Construction and development of a linear park promenade and wet land park, which include the following items of work: Temporary Facilities, Earthworks / Civil Works, Landscaping, Electrical, Surface Course, and Drainage System among others

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php (11,500.00) each package	From 12-16 Sept.	8 am – 5 pm	PRRC 2F. MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	From 12-16 Sept.	8 am – 5 pm		For those who secured only the Eligibity Checklist
a. Pre Bid Conference	05 October	10 am		
b. Site Inspection	05 October	1 pm	Brgy. Napindan City of Taguig	Right after Pre Bid Conference
Deadline for submission of Bids	27 October	10 am	PPRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10 am) shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	27 October	10:30 am		Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

1. The City of Taguig shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
2. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines.
3. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bingle H. B. Gutierrez
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446
Email Address prrc@in-isys.com
Fax No. 926-6449

(PDI - September 3, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631 96-40 • Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: ymluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division Offices, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contracts:

DIV/ADDRESS	BULACAN Malolos, Bulacan	ILOCOS SUR Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Name of Contract	Repair and Rehab of School Bldgs. : Camias ES, Bulualto ES, Sta. Lucia ES, Barilog ES	Repair and Rehab of School Bldgs : Sived Community School, Laoingan ES
Location	San Miguel	Sto. Domingo
Approved Budget for the Contract	P965,316.72	P488,020.91
Contract Duration	45 calendar days	60 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (Listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the execution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of the BAC activities is as follows:

BAC ACTIVITIES	BULACAN Malolos, Bulacan	ILOCOS SUR Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 5 - 9, 2005	September 5 - 9, 2005
Deadline for Receipt of Eligibility Reqmts.	September 12, 2005	September 12, 2005
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 14, 2005	September 14, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	September 15 - 21, 2005	September 15 - 21, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	September 28, 2005; 10:00 a.m.	September 28, 2005; 10:00 a.m.
Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 12, 2005 10:00 a.m.	October 12, 2005 10:00 a.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the respective Division Offices, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit their Eligibility Requirements to the Division BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bid Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 for the Bidding Documents to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Division Office assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for the expenses incurred in the preparation of bids.

The DepED Division BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected parties.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 3 & 10, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Take notice that the following Official Receipts of **Philippine Hoteliers, Inc. (Dusit Hotel Nikko)**, have been reported lost:

OR Nos.

279309	279318	279328	279331
279335	279506	279519	279520
279522	279523	279524	279527
279529	279530	279724	279740

The public is advised /warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by Philippine Hoteliers, Inc. (Dusit Hotel Nikko).

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JENNYLYNNE D. MENDOZA

The public is hereby informed that **Jennylynne D. Mendoza** whose photo appears above is no longer connected with **Lakeside Pharmaceuticals** effective **August 15, 2005.**

Any transaction entered into by **Ms. Mendoza** after said date will not be honored by **Lakeside.**

(PDI - Sept 3 2005)

Vibal DVD nominated to World Summit Award

VIBAL Publishing House, Inc.'s *The Regions of the Philippines* (Mga Rehiyon ng Pilipinas) DVD was recently named the official Philippine entry into the 2005 World Summit Award (WSA). In an email sent to Vibal Edutech Consultant, Dr. Lloyd Espiritu, WSA Philippines Chairperson Josie Cacdac announced that after being named the best e-learning product in the Philippines for 2005, the DVD automatically became the country's official representative in the e-learning category to the world's premiere multimedia award-giving body.

The World Summit Award is a global initiative for selecting and promoting the world's best in e-content and creativity in the framework of the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005).

A total of 1000 products from 168 countries will be competing for the global contest to be judged by the WSA Grand Jury from September 3 - 10, 2005 in Bahrain. The winners will be announced at the WSA Winners Gala, which will take place in Tunis Tunisia on November 16, 2005 during the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

The Regions of the Philippines Multimedia Package is the brainchild of Nila V. Mata, Vibal Vice President and is a production of VPHI Multimedia

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OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

Beloved Wife, Mother and Grandmother

Atanasia Bonifacio Malsi

August 14, 1922 – September 1, 2005

She will be sadly missed by her husband **Domingo Sr.**, her children **Bing** and **Joji**, **Joy** and **Brackley**, **Annette** and **Earl**, her grandchildren **Patrick**, **Ilsa** and **Lauren Malsi**, and **Paolo**, **Nicole** and **Carlo Angeles**.

She lies in state at the residence on
Pacita Ave. cor. Manga St., Pacita Complex,
Phase 2, San Pedro, Laguna.
Please pray for her eternal repose.

"You are gone Dad...But for us you never left. God has you in His keeping. We have you in our hearts."

GAUDENCIO O. HERMOSISIMA, M.D., FPCS

U.P. Medicine Class 1950

Died in the grace of Our Lord on August 30, 2005 at the age of 85.

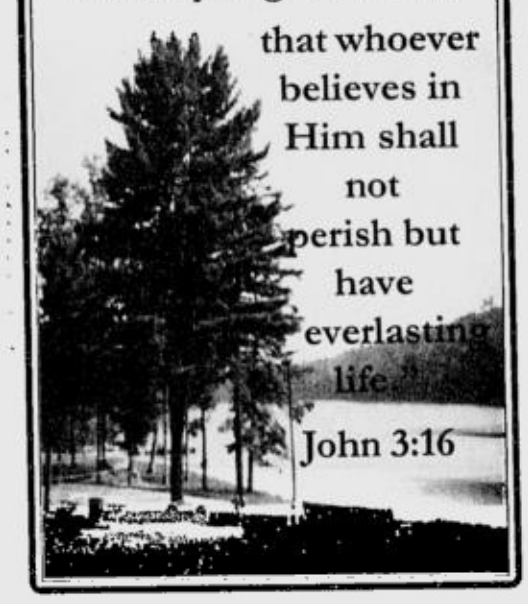
Wife: **Lilia M. Celi Hermosisima**

Children: **CARLOS, OSCAR, SYLVIA; DAVID** and wife **MENCHIE; CAROLYN** and husband **ZENEN; ERNESTO** and wife **DENISE**

Grandchildren: **CHRISTIAN, ANA RITA** and **HANSEL; MIGUEL** and **LAUREN**

His remains now lie in state at Cebu Rolling Hills (2nd Floor) A. S. Fortuna St., Mandaue City, Cebu. Requiem Mass at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow (Sunday). Cremation will follow.
We request everyone to say a minute of prayer for the repose of his soul.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,



that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

On the Occasion of the
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of our Dearly Beloved Bunso

MIA S. GARCIA, M.D.

(November 21, 1964 - September 03, 2004)

We, her parents, brothers, sisters and relatives thank the LORD for the joys of love and life we had with her.

GOD has you in HIS keeping, we have you in our hearts.

We thank all her doctors, classmates and friends who shared their love and cares for her.

We shall be forever grateful.

Good Night, sweet Prince,
and flights of angels
sing thee to thy rest!

The Family
of

H. Marcos "Boy" V. Calo

A Knight, A Jaycee, An Atenean
A Man for Others.

October 21, 1943 - July 25, 2005

wishes to thank all who have supported in their hour of bereavement.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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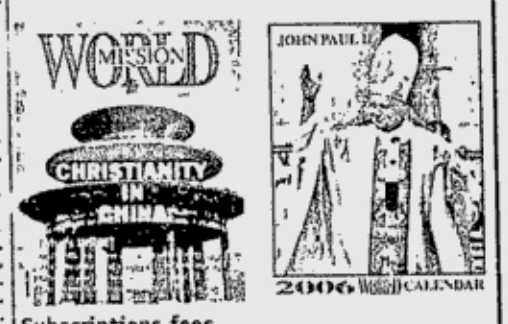

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the **JANITORIAL SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – CENTRAL OFFICE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2006** with an approved budget of =P= 4,587,215.93.

Interested bidders must register by submitting the registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Building, Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting September 5, 2005. Deadline for registration is on September 14, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE shall be allowed to participate in the competitive bidding activities, to wit:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference	Sept. 15, 2005	1:30 p.m.	Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building., San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Sept. 23, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	-same-
Submission of Bids	Oct.7, 2005	Between 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	-same-

Eligibility requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-Bid Conference or they can be secured on September 15, 2005 from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila.

On September 23, 2005, bidders shall submit their eligibility documents in a sealed envelope to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). The envelope shall be marked with the title "JANITORIAL SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – CENTRAL OFFICE FOR CY 2006" and the name of the bidder in capital letters.

Interested parties are required to submit their bids, personally or through their authorized representatives, on October 7, 2005. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone number 527-3480.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES**
Assistant Secretary and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 3 & 10, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following service contracts for CY2006:

SERVICE CONTRACT	PROPOSED BUDGET	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
1. CY2006 Senate Secretariat Uniform for Male	Php 4,000.00/employee	Php 200.00
2. CY2006 Senate Secretariat Uniform for Female	Php 4,000.00/employee	Php 200.00
3. CY2006 Printing & Binding of "Record of the Senate" (5 vols.)	Php 1,552,474.00	Php 100.00
4. CY2006 Printing & Binding of "Journal of the Senate" (12 vols.)	Php 3,347,300.00	Php 100.00
5. CY2006 Supply of Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Oil, Accessories & Other Related Products		Php 100.00

The bid documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City starting Sept. 5-8 & 12-15, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee per service contact. Also, bid bulletins on the schedules of opening of bids and other information will be sent through fax.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org and the Senate website at www.senate.gov.ph.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 3 & 9, 2005)

NFA launches Gepfora for farmers and rice retailers in Cotabato

NATIONAL Food Authority North Cotabato provincial manager Fernando S. Nuñez has announced to farmers and rice retailers the implementation of the Grains Exchange Program for Farmers Organizations and Retailers Associations (Gepfora) in the province. The Gepfora aims to provide accredited farmers' groups additional market for their grains produce through a direct link with rice retailers associations. Gepfora taps the NFA's post-harvest facilities and electronic trading (e-trade) network systems to reduce marketing costs, thus, boosting farmers income . The program will be implemented in the palay depository provinces of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. Meanwhile, withdrawal for both local and imported rice will be in Davao City for Mindanao area. The program, according to Nuñez, will promote an organized interrelationship among the components of the grains industry, particularly agreement on lease, storage, financing and marketing among millers, warehousemen, lessees, financial institutions, farmer organizations and grouped processors.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005

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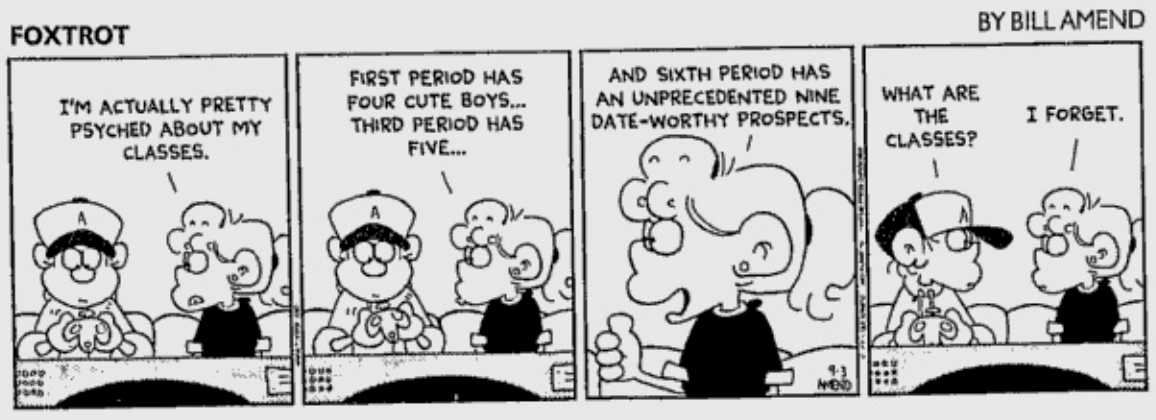
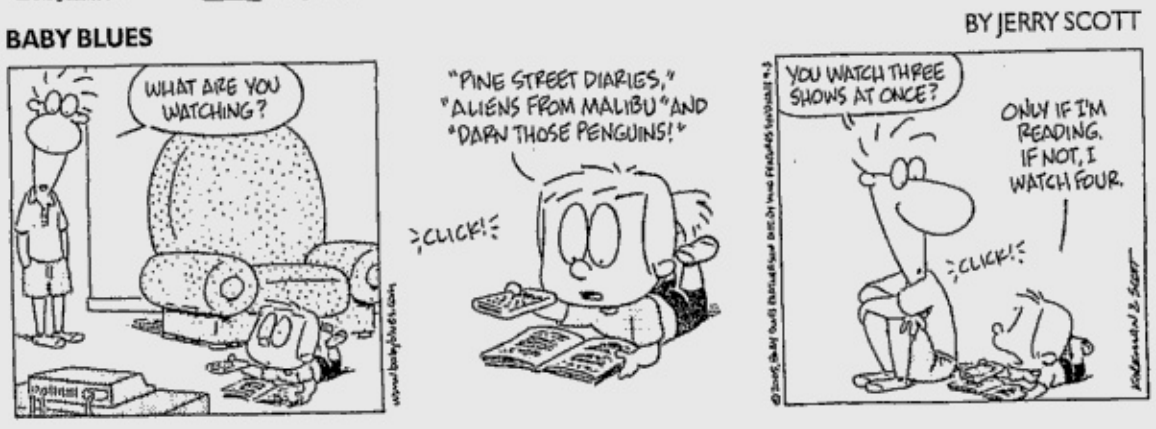


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGÁD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

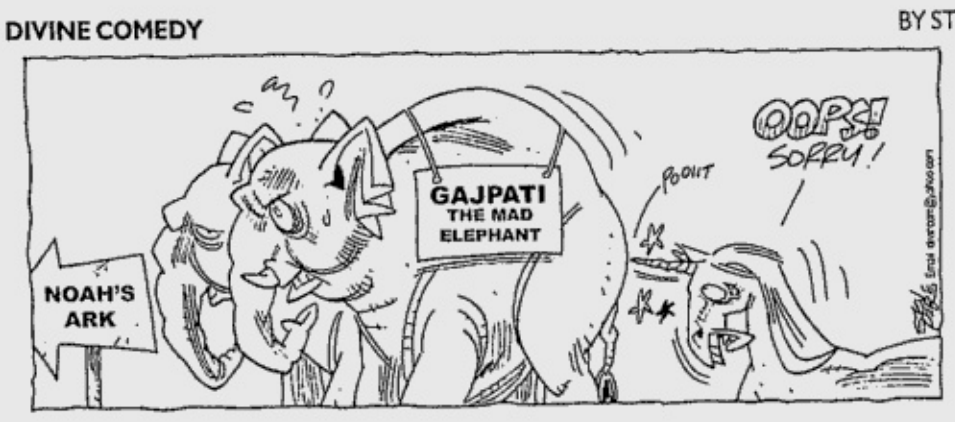
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



NO ONE EVER SAW A UNICORN AGAIN .....

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: There are many sides to you. (Few others get to see them all.) Basically, you like adventure and amusing diversions. You're also multitalented. You have strong social skills. People are easily impressed with you. Nevertheless, controversy often finds you. Work hard in the year ahead for rewards in 2006-07.
Birthdate of: Valerie Perrine, actress; Charles Sheen, actor; Eileen Brennan, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Think about how you can improve your job or how you do your job. Perhaps you can improve your way of relating to co-workers. This New Moon offers you opportunities to do this.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You like your creature comforts. Taurus has always been a sign associated with pleasure as well as hard work. Ask yourself how you can improve your romantic and social lives.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Now is the time to introduce changes to the family dynamic. You might want to start having a regular dinner or barbecue time to let everyone get together and trade lies.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Nobody lives in isolation; therefore, good people skills make a huge difference in how your life flows. How can you improve your communications?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today's New Moon urges you to make friends with your bank account. Get on top of your financial scene. Get the whole picture, no matter how scary it is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the only New Moon all year in your sign. This means that today and tomorrow are the perfect days for you to think about how to improve your appearance and your overall image.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's important to keep a good balance between career matters and your internal world. You cannot ignore one for the other. You need peace and quiet to maintain a balance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Each New Moon offers you an opportunity to introduce new resolutions into your life. This New Moon urges you to examine your friendships with others.

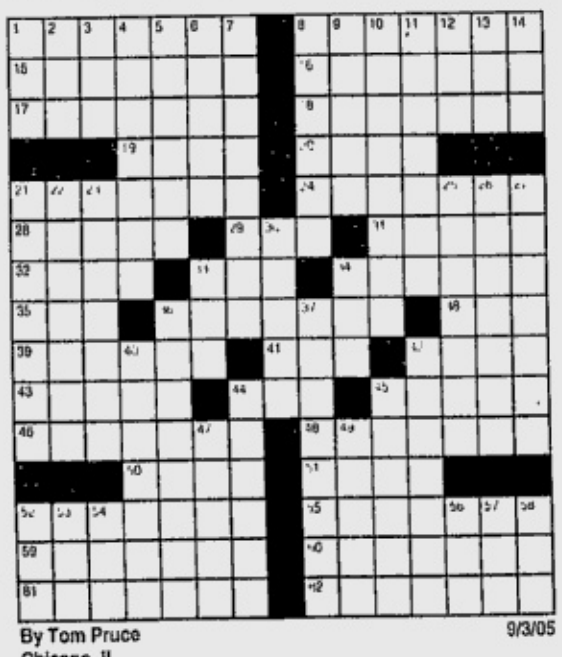
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today's New Moon is the best time all year for you to think about how to improve the way you relate to authority figures. (You do value your freedom.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Think about how you can get the most out of travel opportunities or chances for further training or education. You can learn more about the world around you now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's good not to take the assistance of others for granted. We all benefit from the wealth of others. How do you benefit?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Uranus is in your sign now for the first time in your life, making you feel very independent. How can you improve your closest partnerships and yet maintain this independence?

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
9/3/05

ACROSS
1 Circled around
8 Big name in electronics
15 Practice for battles
16 Went in
17 Military shoulder adornment
18 Tell the story
19 Part of the plot?
20 Faded in the stretch
21 Midway workers
24 Gallivant
28 Mountain nymph
29 In addition
31 Generally recognized
32 Highland loch
33 Cot or cradle
34 Made a smooth transition
35 Little tyke
36 Planned the next play
38 Part of GTE
39 Tickled pink
41 Scope out
42 Speck
43 Nostrils
44 Ulna location
45 Singer Joplin
46 Particulars
48 Dips
50 Sports page fig.
51 Jewish wedding dance
52 Deprive by death
55 Paper craft
59 Energy source
60 Cliquish
61 Degraders
62 Keeps from proceeding

DOWN
1 Be in debt to
2 LL Cool J's genre
3 Lingerie purchase
4 New World lizards
5 Powdered
6 Abrasive cloth
7 Loathed
8 Look after
9 Where lovers walk?
10 Ran naked
11 Cowboy's job
12 Lyricist Gershwin
13 Risked sum
14 Author of "Fables in Slang"
21 Vie
22 Interstices
23 Begin anew
25 Acting peevish
26 Honeybunch
27 Perpetual
30 Curiouser and curiouser
33 Mac
34 Get the point
36 Pause
37 Of certain body tissue
40 Beverage serving ware
42 Nicaragua's capital
44 Showy radiated flowers
45 Legal scholar
47 Grand Slam Australian tennis star
49 "Bonanza" star Greene
52 Arthur or Lillie
53 Off. of an ambassador
54 Narrow inlet
56 "Sting like a bee" boxer
57 Isle in the Irish Sea
58 Apr. collection agency

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	A	L	T	■	A	M	U	S	E	■	A	S	S	N
O	L	E	O	■	B	A	N	A	L	■	S	P	U	R
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P	A	N	E	L	S	■	■	L	A	S	E	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	L	E	F	T	Y	■	P	E	E	T	E
A	S	T	A	I	R	E	S	■	P	E	P	P	E	R
C	E	R	E	S	■	T	A	P	E	D	■	E	S	A
T	R	E	S	■	T	E	R	R	A	■	M	A	T	S
O	M	A	■	B	A	S	I	E	■	P	A	R	E	E
N	O	D	D	E	D	■	N	E	U	R	O	S	E	S
E	N	T	R	E	■	M	A	N	N	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	R	A	T	I	O	■	■	I	N	S	I	S	T
F	L	A	W	■	R	I	G	H	T	G	I	R	T	H
A	I	D	E	■	A	R	N	I	E	■	M	A	U	I
B	E	E	R	■	S	E	U	S	S	■	P	E	N	S

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

PROPERTY

2 resort destinations overlooking Taal lake

By Tessa R. Salazar

TWO leisure property developers have chosen Taal lakeside as the ultimate resort destination.

If the P10-billion resort complex of real estate firm Filipiniana Tagaytay Properties Inc. boasts a magnificent view of scenic Taal Lake and Volcano, Filinvest Leisure brags of a resort community project as the prime lakeside residence.

The Filinvest resort property is named Laeuna de Taal, after famous Taal Lake. Laeuna de Taal, located at the Talisay, Batangas area, is a 60-hectare property that has the potential to expand to 150 hectares if needed. The project cost, as of now, could not be disclosed. What is certain, however, is that the theme of the property is tropical Asian inspired.

Filipiniana Tagaytay Resort Complex, which is Filipino inspired, is a sprawling 20 hectares. It is eight kilometers from Taal Lake with an elevation of 600 meters and is located on the Tagaytay National Highway.

The first phase involves 10 buildings. Each building is six stories high and has a capacity of 70 units. The buildings will house condominiums and restaurants.

All-Filipino design

The developers of the resort complex envision an all-Filipino design that will integrate modern amenities of the hotel, condotels, eco-parks, convention center and theaters.

RGV Realty engineer Ronnie Buenviaje estimated that 50 percent of the property would be allotted for the structures, while the rest would be dedicated for open spaces and greenery. He said a sewage treatment plant (STP) would also be in place.

"The DENR requires all resorts to put STPs. The discharge will be used to water the landscaping," he said. RGV is the marketing arm of Filipiniana Tagaytay Resort Complex.

During the groundbreaking rites, Cabangon Chua, president of the Filipiniana Tagaytay Properties, the project developer, said the total project cost would amount to P10 billion, P2 billion of which would be dedicated to land development alone. He added that 50 percent of the total cost would be funded by Singaporean partner Leow Siak Fah.

ARCHITECT'S perspective of Filipiniana Tagaytay

Filinvest's Orilla, Bahia

Laeuna de Taal property owners would have two choices. The Orilla (meaning lakeside) is residential living closest to The Lake Club with lot cuts of 300 square meters. The Bahia (meaning, "by the bay") is an enclave of 900-sq-m leisure lots with prime lake and mountain views.

LAEUNA de Taal's casitas with a view of the lake and mountain

Development of phases will be based on a clustering of separate gated communities. Each community will have access to The Lake Club.

Activities include water-based recreation such as kayaking, windsurfing and sailing, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the lake. Residents can dine or conduct meetings at the club.

The development includes a lakeside restaurant, function rooms, library, spa, waterfront activity center, swimming pool, kiddie pool and playground, billiards and a boardwalk. The Lake Club will be planned and managed with the same quality of standards and service as The Palms Country Club.

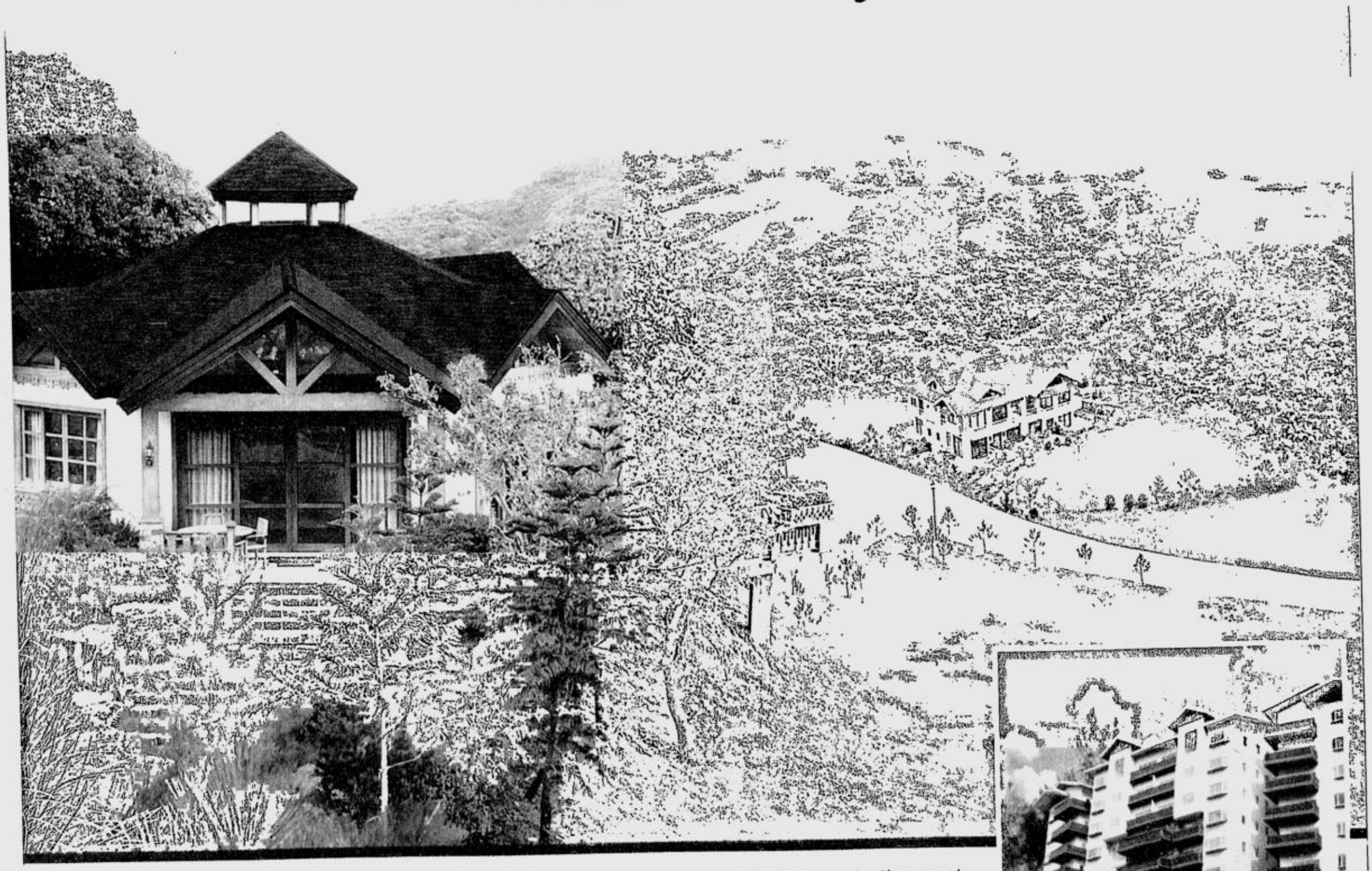
Premier club

Filinvest Leisure made its mark when it developed the now established Palms Country Club, considered the premier club in the country today. Poised to follow suit is Laeuna de Taal, the land developer's maiden project further south, which is touted to be the new mecca for relaxation.

Architect Emmanuel A. Miñana's version of a welcome entry of the Laeuna de Taal is the sight of lush tropical gardens and water elements. His design reflects an Asian tropical village setting, all looking into an interior garden, and cultivating the environment.

Landscape artist Ponce Veridiano will execute a fusion of Zen principles and modern tropical concepts for Laeuna de Taal. White flowers such as calachuchi, sampaguita and kamuning have been chosen to create a monochromatic tone, enhanced with silver dust and silver wall shrubs.

Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay: A Swiss Sanctuary



Nestled on the rolling landscape of Tagaytay is a Swiss-inspired sanctuary that's home to the great life – Crosswinds. The majestic homes of Crosswinds take design and architectural cues from the chalets of Switzerland with wood patterns, overhanging eaves, stone cladding, and dark asphalt roof shingles. Feel refreshed everyday with the bracing scent of more than 8,000 pine trees across the property. With the constant blowing winds, the cool environment, and the calming quiet of this Swiss haven, there's no place, no home quite like Crosswinds.

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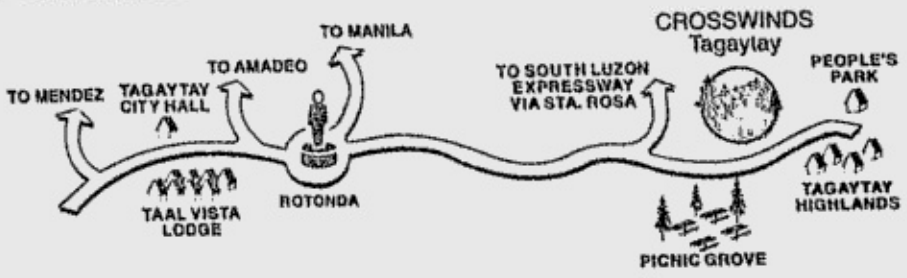
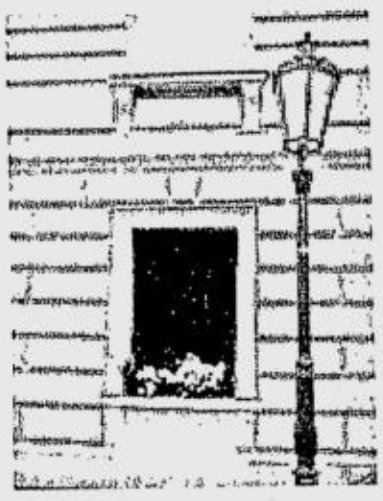


CROSSWINDS
Life is great

Brittany
CORPORATION

A SIMPLE molding



A TYPICAL window detail

NIGHT scene

Prague: The charm of old architecture

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

ONE week in scenic Prague makes one realize that this place could very well be one of the most romantic places on Earth. Prague is one of the few European cities that have been spared from the ravages of war. Its masterpieces remain intact and may be appreciated to this day, the patina of age never taking away from the wonder of its structures and buildings.

What is more memorable is the emotions they evoke in the viewer, rather than the intellectual appreciation of their manifest architectural styles, be it renaissance, gothic or baroque.

Passion for beauty

The past inhabitants of Prague had a passion for beauty. Architecture for them did not focus merely on function but more on the grandeur of form. This is evident in the structures you see around the city and not limited to buildings, but even in their parks, gardens, plazas, waterways, bridges, sculptures, cafés, cobble-stoned streets, and fountains.

But how can inanimate objects like these stir one's emotions? I'm certain that most of those who visit and reside in this city have felt the quiver of soft and fuzzy feelings when seeing such places. I would say that the passion of the builders, artists and architects who created these masterpieces is so contagious that one catches it by merely being around them. Soaking in a place like this for a week was exhilarating for me!

Downside

Today, however, European designs are changing, gearing more toward function and the streamlining of buildings. Form is no longer dictated by craftsmanship, but by the availability of new materials and cutting-edge technology. In this case, can it still induce one's passion? Would it be as romantic as it used to be?

Sadly, maybe not. Surely the newer constructions will serve the purpose they are built for; the practical aspects will be addressed. However, the warmth and involvement of their builders now may not be the same as in those quieter, more trusting times.

More of them are busier, more distracted making money, complicating their lives with modern-day inventions. The nuances of individual personality are harder to find.

Prague was once under communist rule, where the practice of religion was restricted. The population of Catholics and Christians declined and many church buildings were abandoned and redeployed. It is sad to see that many are being used merely as concert halls and theaters, or for even less noble purposes.

Sto. Niño de Praha

A description of Prague is never complete without mentioning that one site most loved by Catholics in the Philippines. Despite the misuse of other religious places, there is still one church that retains its renown and continues to attract pilgrims from all over the world, the Shrine of the Infant Jesus.

Fortunately, the old structure has been preserved and still houses the original statue of the Sto. Niño.

Essence of preservation

The craftsmanship and passion for the arts of the past era have either ceased or been replaced with heartless practicality. This is why the next generation may lose the chance to experience the same soft and fuzzy feelings that old structures stimulate. And this is what makes preservation of the old city vital.

There are treasures from the past which must not be lost. Sometimes, we feel a certain attachment to things, although we may not know why. An old house, an old train station, an old bridge, even from across the world. It must be the call of the creators and artists of the past to the creator and artist latent in some of us. It is a call to immortality and beauty, to legacy and inheritance.

SHDA seeks housing program reforms

THE URGENCY of closer continuing collaboration among the government and the private sector was underscored by the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) as it sought reforms in the housing program to address the country's growing housing backlog of some 3.7 to 4 million dwelling units.

SHDA national president Willie J. Uy and board chair Marilu M. Alferez said top government officials and private sector leaders have been invited to discuss the housing issues along with measures to boost the real estate sector and the national economy at SHDA National Convention at the Bacolod Convention Place Hotel on Sept. 15-16 in Bacolod City. It will be the association's first reaching out to the regions.

With the country's population increasing at an average of 2.4 percent yearly, some 650,000 new units annually will be required to satisfy the overall housing needs, Uy said. He is the president of Phinma Property Holding Corp., while Alferez is vice president and general manager of Robinsons Homes Corp.

Uy and Alferez stressed the pressing need for prioritizing sustainable sources of housing finance for both developers and end-users, the evolution of a secondary mortgage market system, and further encouraging the participation of private financial institutions, particularly the private banks, in housing development. In fact, they pointed out, government itself recognized the urgency of these housing reforms and strategies in its Medium-Term Development Plan 2004-2010.

Partnership

The convention will be held in partnership with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) chaired by Vice President Noli de Castro on the theme "Ibayong Tulungan sa Pabahay Tungo sa Pambansang Kaunlaran." SHDA, the country's largest organization of housing developers, has been collaborating with the government housing sector led by HUDDC for the last few years in efforts to make the housing program succeed.

De Castro will be the main speaker on policies, programs and future thrusts of the government's housing program at the convention's opening.

Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita, chair of the House committee on housing and urban development, and Rep. Monico O. Puentebella (lone district, Bacolod City) will touch on legislative update and initiatives in the housing development. Convention chair Eduardo Alunan stressed the importance of the convention in discussing current developments and future prospects of the housing industry.

Workshops

The convention will feature workshops on the special purpose vehicle (SPV) and its role in the acquisition of nonperforming assets of banks and other real and other properties acquired (Ropoa) by financial institutions, and opportunities for joint ventures; matching SHDA members with overseas marketing networks; and developers' opportunities in linking up with the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA).

Director Rudy Cana of the project evaluation and registration department of the Board of Investments will discuss strategies, accreditation and fiscal incentives for developers, while executive director Ramon B. Alikpala of the National Water Resources Board will take up NWRB requirements in connection with the Water Code of the Philippines, and return of developers' investments in water facilities in housing projects.

Dialogue

The Vice President will preside during the SHDA dialogue with housing agency heads. Among those expected to be on hand are HUDCC secretary general Lucille P. Ortile, Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) president and CEO Romero F.S. Quimbo, National Housing Authority general manager Federico A. Laxa, Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo Benjamin A. Bongolan, and National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. president Fermin Arzaga.

The simplification of rules and regulations to fast-track the permitting and licensing process in housing will "generally hasten production and provide an incentive to private housing developers and investors," said Uy.

To be examined are the provisions of Executive Order 45 issued by Malacañang to speed up the processing and issuance of government permits and clearance certificates for housing projects.

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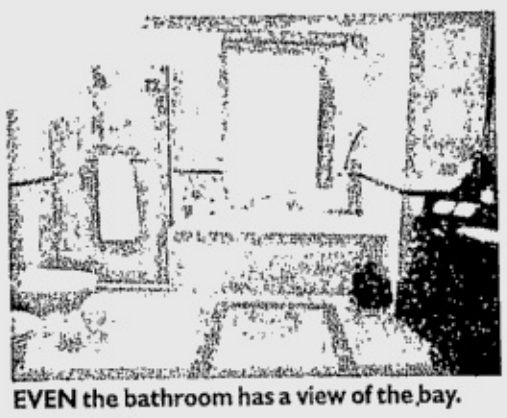

EVEN the bathroom has a view of the bay.

Luxury condo

From page B2-4

dren's playroom, putting green at the 53rd floor with gazebos and mini garden," enumerates Roque.

Calm and relaxed haven

Roque explains that developer Moldex Land envisaged a calm and relaxed haven—devoid of fuss and clutter—where one can unwind at the end of a long, hard day.

"Being located in one of the busiest places in Metro Manila, the Golden Empire's architecture, amenities and interiors were made to let its residents escape the stresses of the life outside," explains Roque.

The Golden Empire is a major achievement for Moldex Realty considering the developer has been into horizontal development (Metrogate and Heritage homes series of subdivision) for almost a decade.

TAKE a refreshing dip at the pool located at the 11th floor.

Rock-hewn churches

AMAZING STRUCTURES

THE CROSS-SHAPED Church of St. George, the most famous of Lalibela's monolithic churches

ETHIOPIA, Africa's oldest independent country, may be known for its droughts and famines but how about for its rock-hewn churches?

On a mountainous region in the heart of Ethiopia sits 11 medieval monolithic churches dating from the 12th century. The churches, carved from a sloping mass of red volcanic scoria underlaid by dark gray basalt, are located in Lalibela, a high place of Ethiopian Christianity which remains to be a place of pilgrimage and devotion. Interconnected by a maze of tunnels and passages that open to hermit caves and catacombs, these were produced solely by medieval Ethiopian civilization.

The stone surfaces of the churches, which are exposed to weathering, are in constant danger of erosion. The churches are included in Unesco's World Heritage List.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

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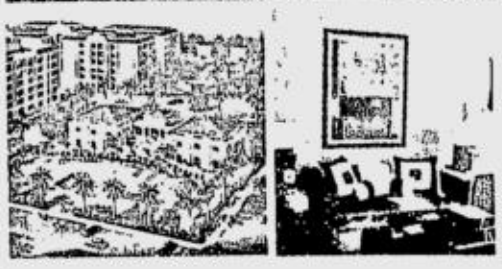

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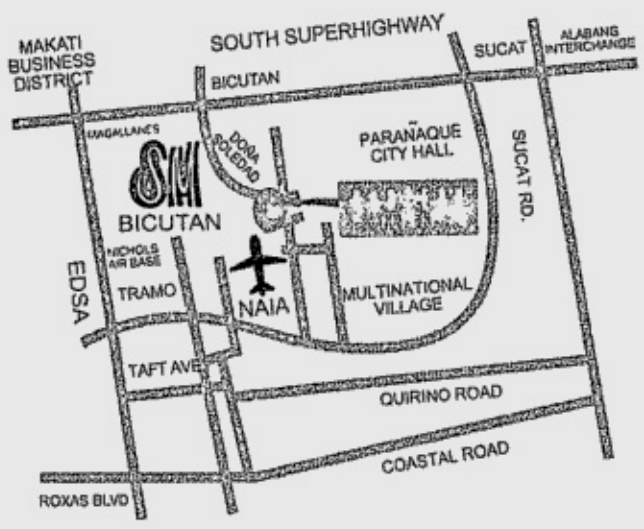

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ENJOY front-seat view of Manila Bay's famous sunset.

Luxury condo offers best view, most relaxed living

By Charles E. Buban

WHAT could be more relaxing than soaking away the stresses of the day in your own bathtub that also lets you enjoy a breathtaking view of Manila Bay and its beautiful sunset?

Indeed, 1322 Golden Empire Tower ranks among Roxas Boulevard's most prestigious and luxurious residential addresses offering 57 floors of first-class amenities and view of Manila Bay.

"The view is decidedly one of the property's selling points," says Beads Roque of Moldex Realty Marketing, the exclusive marketing arm of the high-rise property.

Located in Ermita

Located at the corner of Padre Faura and Leon Guerrero streets in Ermita (in front of the United States Embassy), the Golden Empire offers three- and four-bedroom units as well as special suites and penthouse in the 56th and 57th floors.

The three-bedroom units come with four bathrooms and maids quarters (with own bathroom) and are priced starting at P14 million while the four-bedroom units come with five bathrooms and maids quarters (also with own bathroom) and are priced starting at P25 million.

"By the way, all master bedrooms have whirlpool bath tubs that lets you enjoy the world-famous sunset of Manila Bay," describes Roque.

Furnished

Each unit is furnished with air-conditioning units (package type) in the living and dining rooms as well as bedrooms, built-in storage cabinets and walk-in closets, modular kitchen cabinets with granite countertops, kitchen range hood, bathtub with whirlpool, vanity counters and dressers, two to three parking slots (per units), framed glass shower enclosures, and floor-to-ceiling glass walls that provide the living room front seat view of the bay.

"Our residents also enjoy hotel-like amenities of the building including our 25-meter table top swimming pool with bar at the 11th floor, function area, a physical fitness center with sauna and massage rooms, chil-

LUXURY/ B2-2

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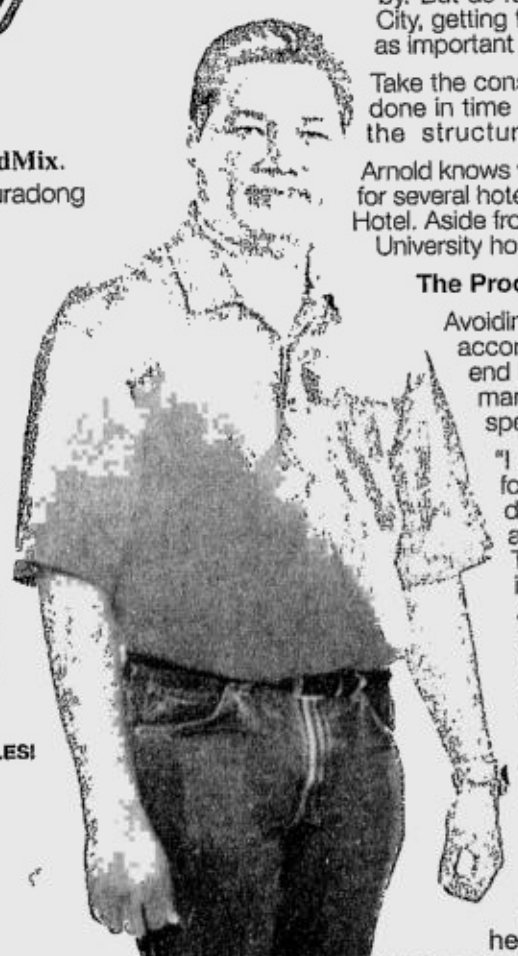

Expert Convinced on the Performance of AddMix

The Master at Work

To complete the work as scheduled is one adage an engineer has to live by. But as for Arnold Dupit, a civil engineer and a contractor in Iloilo City, getting the desired results with minimum waste effort and skill is just as important as beating the dealine.

Take the construction of a hotel, for instance. The job should not only be done in time for the tourist season; the contractor must also make sure the structure is sturdy enough for the safety of its dwellers.

Arnold knows what he is talking about. He has worked as structural designer for several hotels in Iloilo City, such as the La Fiesta Hotel and Four Seasons Hotel. Aside from that, one of his major projects was the West Visayas State University hospital OPD and Medical Condo.

The Product at Work

Avoiding time wastage, money and skill should always be practiced according to Arnold, who is now handling road works and high-end housing projects for several subdivisions in the city. Aside from manpower and equipment, raw materials play a big part in the speedy completion of a project.

"I used to buy this cement fortifier brand, which comes in gel form," he recounted. The consistency of the gel makes blending difficult, so they had to use a mixer everytime. Some products also require longer curing time, which is another cause of delay. To resolve these issues, he now uses admixtures that come in powder form, such as AddMix Ultra. "Because it's powder, AddMix Ultra can already be mixed manually," he said. Aside from that, the product promotes faster curing time and better workability of the concrete for longer periods, saving him time and labor.

The Secret to quality concrete

Arnold is now at the finishing stage of his housing projects, thanks to AddMix Ultra. Currently he is using AddMix Easy, the admixture intended for mortar and plastering jobs. "It has the same great time, money and labor-saving properties," he said. As soon as plastering is finished, he is also sure to use AddMix Tilebond, the newest product specifically for tile work. That's because Arnold knows that with AddMix products, he can deliver right on schedule.

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Step into Club_TV! page C2

Should you bother with Pinoy Big Brother? page D3

Anne Curtis: Love her or hate her? page D2

It's reggaeton time! page D1

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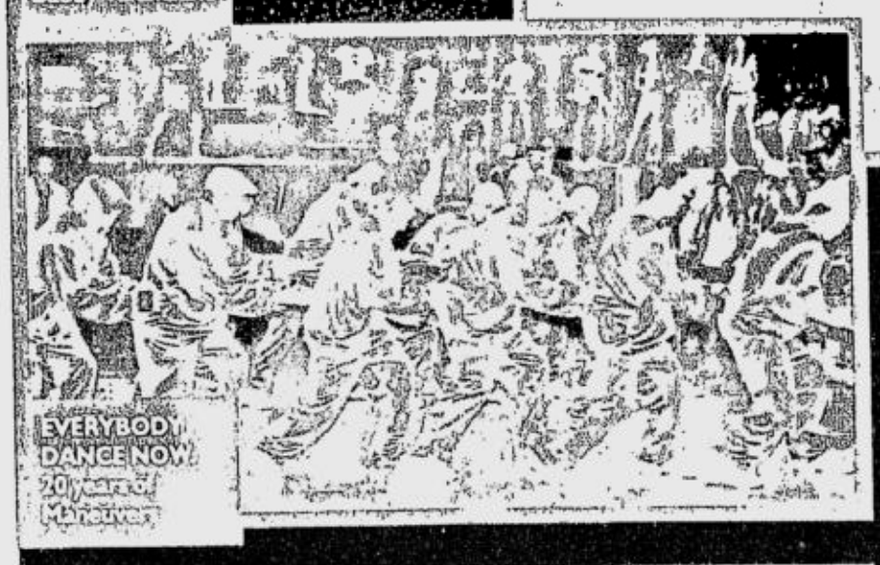

Keep the Sat night vib

By James Gabrillo, David Milan and Gino de la Paz
Photos by Dominique James

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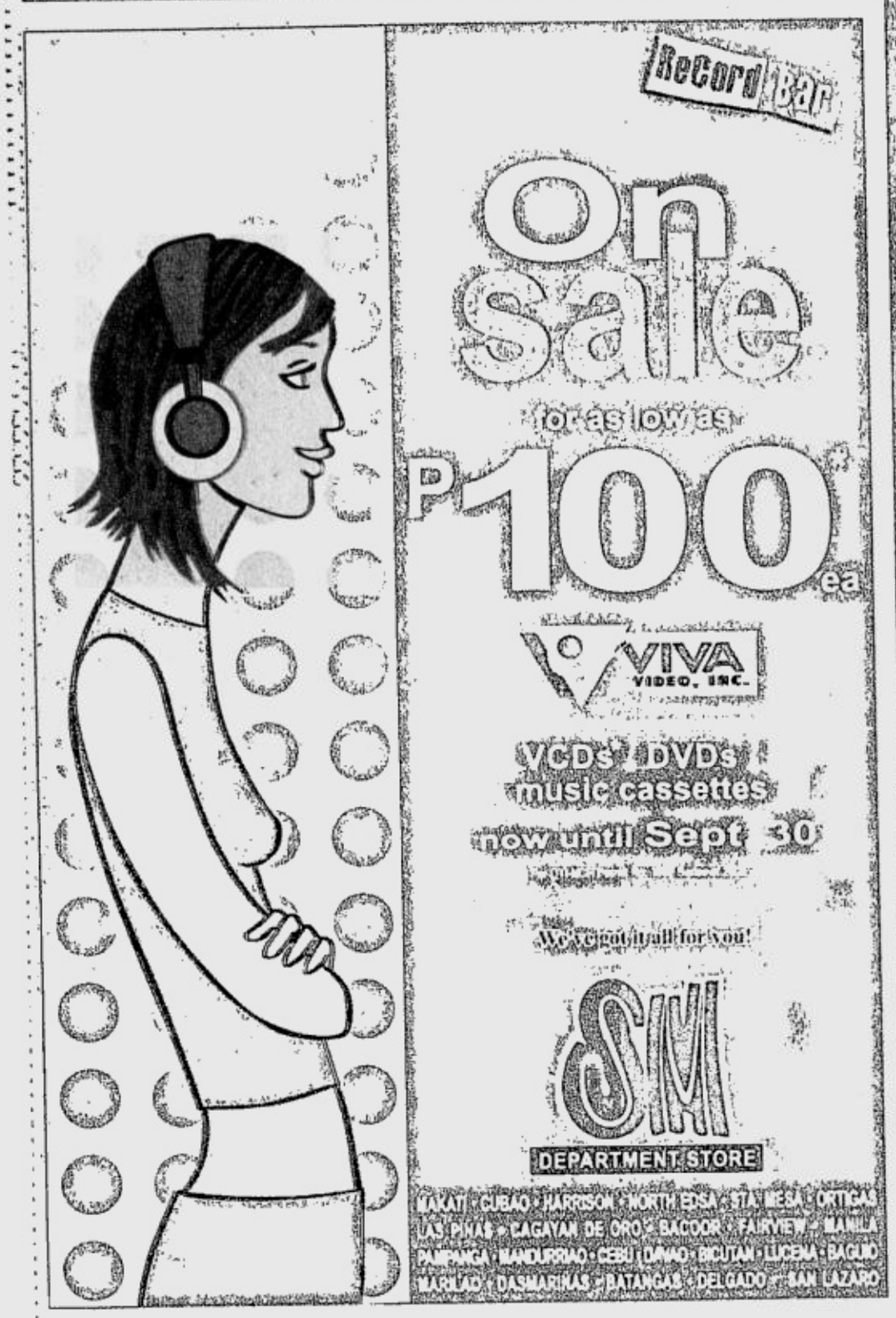

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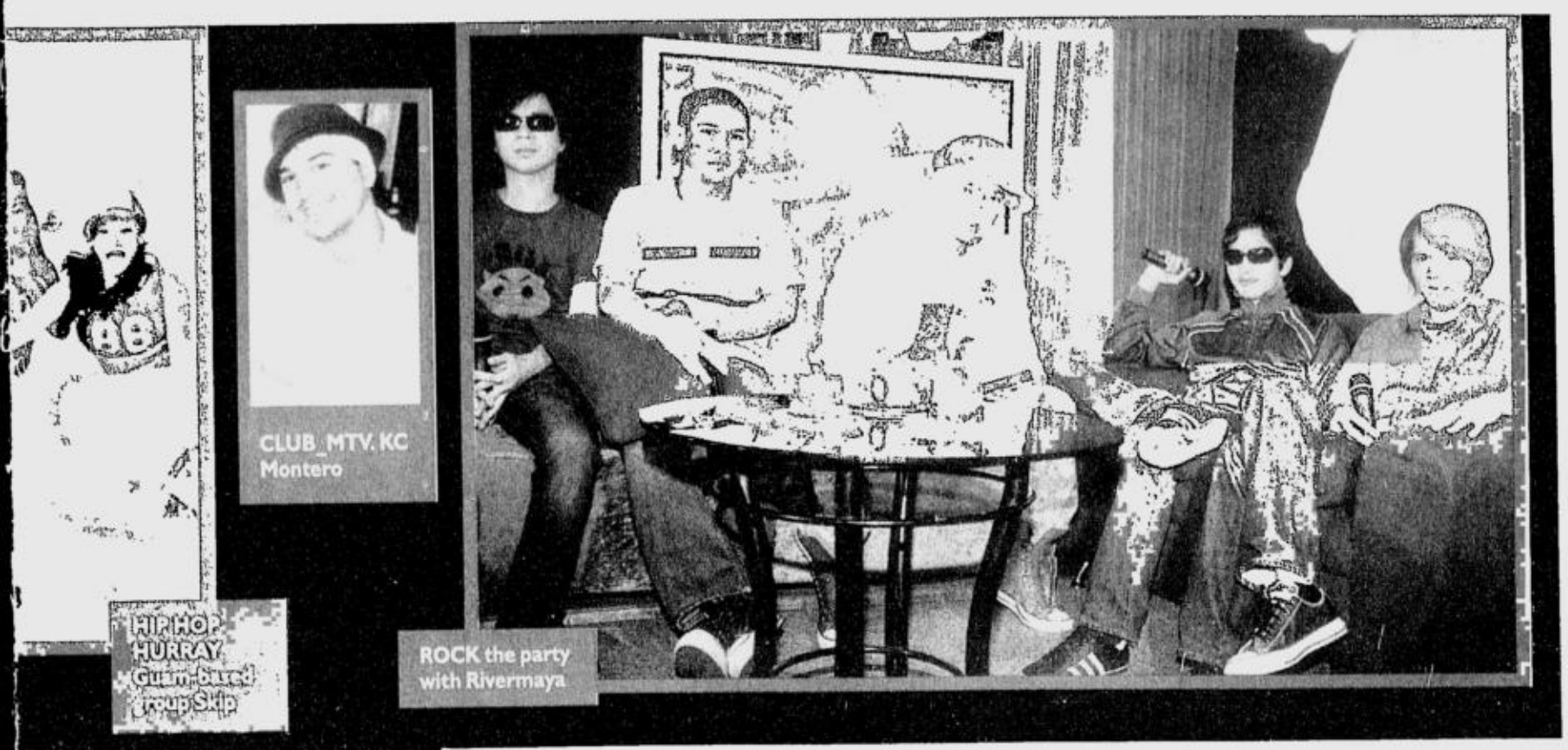

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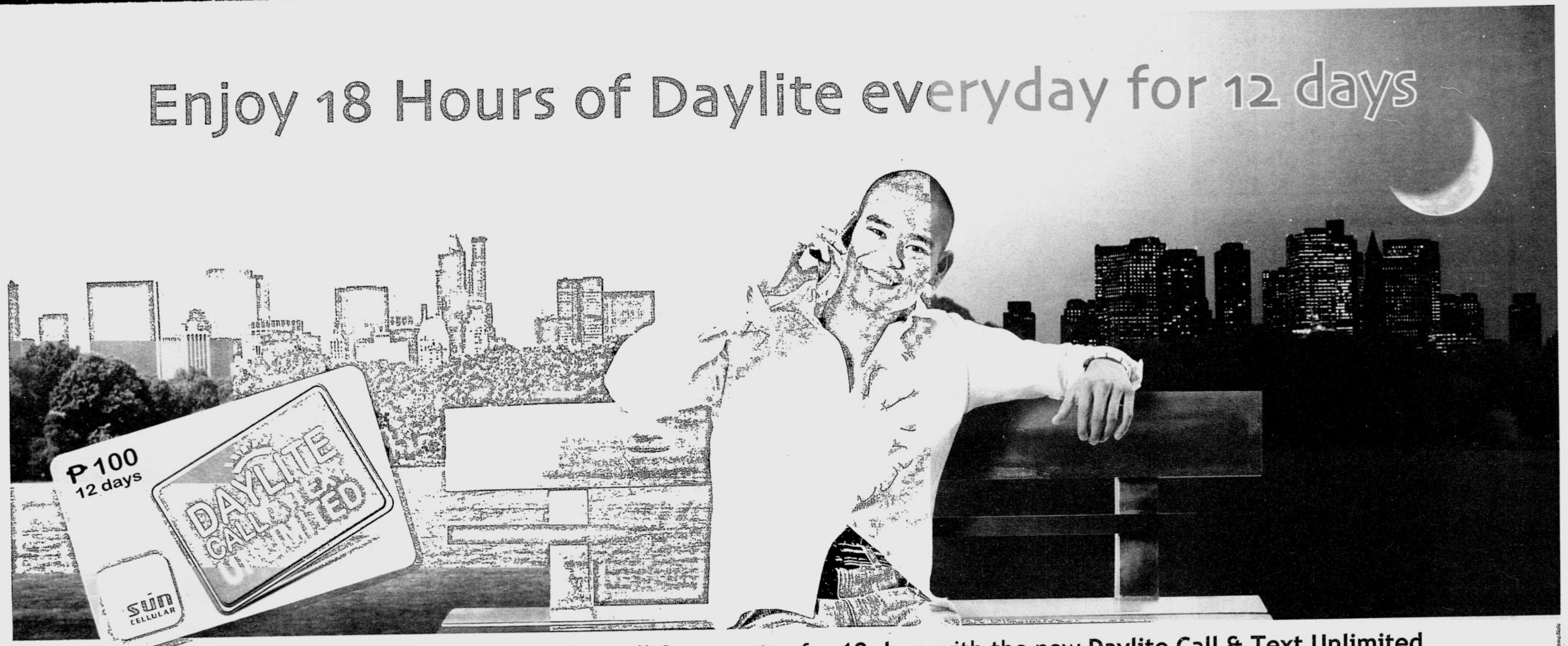

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A slick crossbreed of dancehall rhythms and Spanglish rap, reggaeton has made its way from Puerto Rico to a club near you

Música for the masses

IN CASE you've missed out on the attendant craziness of today's nightlife scene, here's your chance to cozy on up to the heat. One: It's still as hazy and boozy as ever. (That's a given.) Two: It still goes on way till the a.m. (Like, duh.) Three: Aside from hip-hop, crunk'n'b and neo-soul, allegedly with it speakers now also pound rhythms of a more exotic and fairly Caribbean nature. *Si señor!*

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

I may have sniffed my Magic Marker that time or second-hand-smoked enough to slightly mess me up but I swear I heard the alien sounds of the *champeta*. (A-music style and dance from Cartagena, Colombia along the north coast, the *champeta* is a Creole genre made up of traditional Caribbean beats such as the cumbia, soca and calypso combined with influences from the African continent like the soukos, bikutsi, and Congolese rumba.) Holy Macarena! Was this the VIP lounge at Embassy or was I, like, totally back in South America?

It turns out my ears were partly right. The Latino *riddims* that boomed and bumped next to mainstream jams by Bobby Valentino, Snoop and, okay, 50 Cent weren't exactly *champetas*. Evoking fried plantains, beans and rice as it does graffiti, drive-bys and bling, the strange but slammin' booty call soundtrack apparently responds to the name—brace yourself—reggaeton. Kids, you have been warned.

Reggaeton nation

The now-booming (or near-famous) cousin of hardcore hip-hop, reggaeton is a relatively new kind of dance music that originated in Panama but has become popular in Puerto Rico over the last decade. Taken from the Jamaican reggae music that influenced its beat, reggaeton was also heavily shaped by other Puerto Rican music genres, the urban scene in the United States and, to a certain extent, the Colombian *champeta*. What Puerto Ricans brought to the mix was house music (itself a fusion of salsoul and disco) and straight up rap.

With its simple but sexy tempo, reggaeton has put the Boricua barrio life—Boricua being the original name of Puerto Rico—under the global spotlight. Far from the drug-related violence that spawned it, this brash bilingual beat has been steadily building a fan base across the *Mar Caribe* since the early 90's. Reggaeton blew up on Latin radio stations in the US last year, prompting station managers and music channels to coin a new format called Hispanic Urban, or Hurban.

Stirring up images of dancers in cages and oil-drum fires as well as crime and racism, reggaeton appeals primarily to young urban peeps the way coast-to-coast American rap does. Also called *perreo* (meaning "doggie") in Spanish, referring to a common reggaeton dance move that suggests a sexual position, this cross-cultural genre has recently exploded in the Dominican Republic, Perú, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Nicaragua. And apart from finding greater glory in more glittery towns with large concentrations of Puerto Ricans or other Hispanics, such as New York and Miami, it seems that reggaeton has also spurned Puerto Rico in favor of more far-flung markets like the United Kingdom and even Japan.

Music industry insiders allege that reggaeton may just elbow out salsa and merengue as the body-rubbing, sweat-sharing music of choice among Puerto Rican and other Hispanic youth. As of this second, the exponents of this sexed up *café con leche* musical genre include Ivy Queen, Tego Calderón, and the hotly-tipped Daddy Yankee.

Superthug status

The *hombre* behind this summer's reggaeton anthem, "Gasolina," Daddy Yankee (born Raymond Ayala in Santurce, Puerto Rico) has been stomping around the Latin music industry for more than 15 years. When hip-hop heavyweight Nas heard Yankee's free-flowing vocals in 2002, the encounter resulted in "The Prophecy," a street wisdom-laced track recorded in New York.

Following collaborations with other boldfaced beatmasters such as Terror Squad and N.O.R.E., Daddy Yankee dropped "Barrio Fino," the most anticipated album in reggaeton history. By far his slickest work, "Barrio Fino," released in July 2004, was also the CD that put the formerly underground music movement on the map, breaking through the fickle and highly competitive American market.

2005 has been an awesome year for Daddy Yankee. Apart from opening for Usher in March, his smash "Gasolina" blared on Italian TV as part of the ad campaign for the 2006 Citeron C2 Deejay. "Barrio Fino" also won Reggaeton Of The Year at the 2005 Billboard Latin Music Awards, mad recognition from his peers in the biz. As if all that wasn't enough, i-D Magazinde reports that Daddy Yankee is all set to become Sean John's next Times Square poster boy. Gotta respect the reggaeton!

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NESTEA Plunge into the Mix

By David Milan

ANNE CURTIS
Love her or hate her?

ALL GROWN up, Anne Curtis has evolved from being a party girl to becoming a soap superstar/mega endorser. Topbilling her own show "Kampanerang Kuba" and endorsing a handful of products, Anne Curtis is having the time of her life. May it be acting, hosting or cuddling up with her boyfriend, this no holds-barred chick is definitely satisfied with her career. True enough, no single actress has gotten away with such popularity even after endorsing a local alcoholic drink. Everybody thinks that doing so will put you to the defamed-actress-turned-starlet bandwagon; but she proved everyone wrong and boldly accepted the project. Alas, she emerged as the same old Anne, if not better and stronger.

She has the looks that make her seem like your girl-next-door type and a nitty-gritty biatch all at the same time. Many have criticized her for her free-spirited personality, but she's really just being her real self. May it be getting drunk at a bar or any of those bad rumors about her love life and professionalism at work, Anne throws and discards these hurtful words away and chooses to keep her focus instead. She has stood tall and has proven to everyone that all their criticisms are wrong.

Anne has definitely arrived. Nothing's gonna stop her on her way to the top now. This is Anne Curtis—breaking the rules but still ruling!

The thing about fame is... that it comes along with a lot of experiences that doesn't happen in normal lives.

The thing I love most about what I do is... I'm alwalys learning. May it be when I'm acting, modeling, traveling. It gives me the opportunity also to meet new people and experience new things. It's like being in school again except now, instead of learning math, sciences and social studies you're learning things about life and different arts.

People might be surprised to know that... I write poetry and I love to read. I also have plans on learning how to play a guitar someday.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that... you should always respect, be considerate and have patience towards others. If you do, you will get it in return.

I wish when I started off I've been told... to always be aware of what people might say about me and be prepared for no sleep nights! *hehehe*!

The worst thing that ever happened to me was... bad publicity

And what taught this to me was... you'll never be able to please everybody. There will always be that one tough person.

The secret to happiness is... remove all hatred, jealousy and insecurity in your heart and mind. Sounds impossible but you can do it. Trust God.

My best ever outfit consisted of... my petit monde red spaghetti strap dress. It's my "Kampanerang Kuba" dress! I'm keeping it forever.

My Super! Saturday night consists of... Taping...

The soundtrack to my life would include... Landslide

If I was invisible for a day, I would... do something I'm still thinking about.

The thing that makes me most angry is... betrayal of trust

If I was the most powerful person on earth... I'd declare peace on earth and remove poverty from all countries.

The best thing about family is that... they love you no matter what. They're there for you come what may.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say... She's the one we'll truly miss.

If money was no option... I'd travel, visit and see the world.

When I retire, I would like to... live a peaceful life in Australia where I grew up. Just live simply.

The world would be a much better place if... there were no wars and poverty.

My hero is my father.

The thing that makes my life worth living is... my passion to give love. Love to my family, my loved ones, my friends, my job, my country to live a life God has given me.

My greatest hope for the future is... to accomplish all my goals—like, hopefully, win an award, finish and settle down in my house, travel to different countries and so on. It's an endless list!

The worst thing somebody said about me was... that I died. Don't ask me who and why because I don't know.

My favorite moments are when... I'm lost in thoughts and beautiful memories.

My most embarrassing moment was when... I don't have an embarrassing moment because I keep on having them. Those who know me know what I'm talking about.

Im saving up for... the interior of my houses.

My biggest indulgence is... romance. I'm a hopeless romantic.

My current state of mind is... focused

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be... My future daughter

My 5 favorite words are...
Love, Happy, Buddy, *Ows* and '*Hala ka*!'

I aspire to be... a loving mother and grandmother someday.

I never thought I'd be taking life lessons from someone so young with such maturity. Anne may not strike the average joe as a wellspring of wisdom as her face displays her precious youth. I can assure you, her soul gives off much more.

Anne as a celebrity: She's refreshingly super patient when it comes to her fans. She always takes the time to stop for autographs and pictures when asked. It's so nice to see how much she appreciates her supporters. I'm so proud of her. She realized that she has been blessed with her career and doesn't take it for granted at all. Her work ethic is so admirable considering that she's only 20! I think she's brilliant at her craft and is only getting better and better with each passing day.

Anne as a girlfriend: Super sweet! Super *lambing*! I can spend every waking moment with her. We get along like milk and cookies. She's my best friend and the one I want to spend forever with. She's the sun in my sky. She's my "buddy":-)

-Paolo Araneta

Oh Brother!

By James Gabrillo
and Pepe Diokno

LIKE, what is the draw of a show like Big Brother? Seeing strangers forced to live with each other? Seeing people fight over the tiniest crap? Seeing weird people do weird things? We already have Survivor, MTV's Jackass, The Simple Life, and heck—Outback Jack. So why are people tuning in?

Well, the true draws of Big Brother are grit—it's real reality, it's seeing people like you and us react to real things, and the sex (The show's too tame. Put it on cable TV so we can see real action!).

Pinoy Big Brother so far has neither of these. Yeah, it has all the reality show elements we love but it's still a miss. Because just like everything else we see on the boob tube (censor that!), it banks on formulas, and safe decisions, and tons of crapola.

ABS-CBN did not bring Big Brother to the Philippines. They brought this limp show. They didn't bring in Big Brother, a show that challenges norms and a show that is able to talk about things more than the love affair of Chx and Rico. The original Big Brother debuted abroad to reinvent. Pinoy Big Brother debuted to... well, we don't know why.

But because both of us are addicted to umm, creepily funny shows, we decided to tune in anyway! Hooray for our determination!

This week, using an intricate and elaborate scoring system based on an extensive and well-thought of criteria composed of physical attributes, melodrama factor, and the ability to make us roll on the floor—we decide on the fate of seven selected housemates, as our right in this free country. This is, after all, how all vital things in the entertainment industry are decided.

Following this bad and mediocre flow sounds completely unhealthy, but screw it! It's fun!

Uma

The guy appears to be the star of the show as he struts the house with his über-confidence and arrogance. After making the girls cry, he said sorry to only one girl, saying that the others who cried simply wanted to be a part of the drama. His dry humor aids him to win the Quotes of the Week award.

"Yosi! I want *yosi!"* (*The girls give him a stick and a box of matches*) *"Hindi ako gumagamit niyan.* I want a lighter!"

(*Ordering the girls*) *"Sige* sexy dance! Sexy dance *kayo! Gusto ko parang* lesbian!"

Quotes of the Week: 100

Drama avoidance bonus: 20

Say

After suggestively announcing in the pilot episode that she "will do anything" inside the house, Say cried after Uma made her dance seductively. The only other thing we noticed about her is that she brought more clothes than a United Nations Ambassador on a two-hour tour of a city. Yay!

Points for attempt at courageous trend-setting: 0

Deduction for making false promises for the horny-too-much-time-on-their-hands-guys demographic: -30

Jenny

Jenny appeared to be MIA (Missing-In-Action) for the past days, so we actually thought she was already evicted. Unfortunately, when we tuned in this week, she's still there and blurted out what is probably the most subtle piece of dialogue ever.

(*Teasing Jason, who spends a load of time in the bathroom*) *"Ikaw naman ang lagi laman ng toilet. Sa* 100 days *mo dito,* 20 days *sa* toilet."

Deduction for uncalled-for use of figurative language: -60

Rico

Rico is responsible for the hordes of cheeseball that we have had the misfortune of seeing: he cries every night as he talks to the framed photo of his ex-gal, he sleeps with a teddy bear, he suddenly shifts into baby voice mode at random times, he throws the poor teddy bear at the cameras, and he refuses to follow instructions. He also walks around the house 90% of the time in his underwear. We predict an early exit.

Deductions for overexposure and assault with his dangerous weapon: -75

Racquel

Her I'm-the-oldest-so-treat-me-with-utmost-respect-fit-for-royalty attitude is crap. She's bossy and most of her housemates want to plow her to death (sorry for that image we placed in your dirty minds). One time she suddenly burst into song belting "A Whole New World." Annoying!!!

(*Shouting at Rico, who's inside the bathroom*) *"Tagal naman, baka abutan na kami ng pitompu't pitong daang manok."* (Case closed. GET HER OUT OF THE HOUSE.)

Disharmony deduction: -150

Jason

With his Batangueño accent, Jason is both overly dramatic and effortlessly amusing, as proven by his runner-up quote of the week.

(*Encouraging JB*) *"JB huwag tayong susuko, kaya natin yan, kaya natin yan pare."*

Dramatic runner-up quote of the week: 75

Cass

Uma describes her as *"loka-loka"* as she speaks her mind, puts on the most colorful set of clothes, and after dancing sensually and shamelessly for hours, suddenly cries in a corner and says that her dignity was offended. Awww. Not.

(*After Uma tells her that he's gonna ask her hand for marriage after the show*) *"Hindi ko kaya ibigay! Eh 'di wala na akong kamay, anong gagamitin ko 'pag kumakain ako?"*

Deduction for stating the obvious: -40

CLOCKWISE from top: housemates Uma, Say, Jenny, Jason, Cass, Racquel and Rico

Música for . . . From page D1

Big business

As far as the mainstream goes, however, the most successful—albeit watered down—reggaeton track to date has been "Oye Mi Canto" featuring N.O.R.E., Nina Sky, Gem Starr and Daddy Yankee. Again, though not as authentic as its counterparts in the Caribbean, the transcultural jam has taken reggaeton to non-Latino audiences in the US, Europe and Asia.

As the most prominent development in post-Tupac hip-hop culture, reggaeton is attracting big-league players to the cause. Hip-hop magazine The Source is launching a reggaeton edition. And for two stars thought long past their prime—Fat Joe and N.O.R.E.—the genre has offered a miracle cure for their careers.

DAME MAS GASOLINA. Daddy Yankee rules the reggaeton nation.

In an interview with The Guardian, Fat Joe said, "It's scary how big it's going to get," referring to the impending reggaeton wave. Coming from a rapper whose livelihood looked in terminal decline until he recorded a track called "Reggaeton Latino," it appears that this hip-hop of the Latino world means big business.

Flood of attention

Another weary thug, half-Puerto Rican half-Queens native N.O.R.E also seems set to hit it big with his unexpected, offshoot reggaeton career. Self-christened after Manuel Noriega, Panama's heinous dictator and drug czar, he has performed at a sold out venue, the Madison Square Garden, for the largest reggaeton concert to take place in the US, ever. "The Latino people haven't been spoken to in a while," he explained to The Guardian. "This is what speaks for the inner-city Latino youth."

Even Colombian superstar Shakira has capitalized on the Afro-Caribbean post-slavery version of hip-hop. On "Fijación Oral," Shakira includes a more explicitly reggaeton version of her current single "La Tortura," epileptic chest pumping and all.

Whether it's lowest-common-denominator pop or a foot in the door for Latino artists, one can look at reggaeton as hip-hop reinventing itself for a new market. With white-collar suburban types, preppies and frat kids getting in on the action on the one hand, and R. Kelly, Alicia Keys and Marques Houston on the other, will the flood of attention wilt this somewhat fresh kind of music? Think about that as we brace ourselves for a Britney Spears reggaeton remix, which—sigh!—could be in production as we speak.

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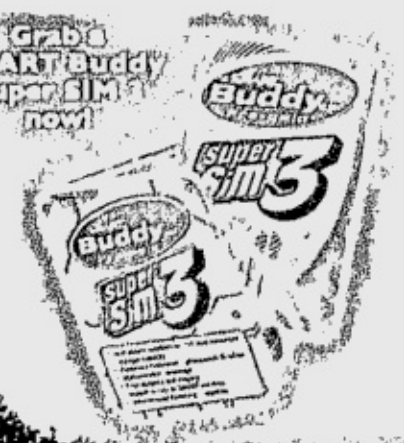

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